

Edgmond Wildlife Group and St Peters Primary School

Projects November 2023

Working under the umbrella title 'Night and Day' with reception.

Project 1 Trail Cams



In this project we used the trail cams to record both day and night activity in the meadow and wildlife areas. We marked various spots across these areas with white markers and for 9 days we baited these areas and let the cameras do their work.

The children set up the cameras in House Groups. The cameras were checked by EWG each day and the 30 second clips were assembled into short videos. This was time consuming but necessary because the children would not have the access to IT or the necessary skills to do this.

The children were introduced to the sort of mammals and birds we might find in a short photographic presentation. One of our cameras was set up to record the visitors to a bird feeder in the wildlife garden.

We prepared two ID sheets (birds and mammals), selecting photographs of species that we were likely to see. We pointed out any key ID features e.g. long tail, feeds at night etc. The children were very excited to see the final video clips. They used the ID sheets to circle what they could see and identify. Here is a list of what we found and videoed.

Mammals: Woodmouse, Yellow necked Mouse, Bank Vole, Grey Squirrel, Hedgehog, Fox, Cat!

Birds: Nuthatch, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Wood Pigeon, Blackbird



Project 2. Small Mammal Traps



At the start of this project, we recapped on what we had learnt from the previous project using a presentation with images and some writing. This would help the children to understand and identify the small mammals that they might catch!

We discussed what had to go in the traps and why. We needed to take into account food (mixed seed and peanuts), water (apple) and hay to keep them warm.

We worked in house groups to prepare the small mammal traps. We put these at the previously used white marker posts as these had already been baited for 9 days. We knew from the trail cameras that we had a good chance of catching something at these locations.

The traps were set by the children late afternoon and collected by them the following morning. We enjoyed checking each trap to see if the door was shut!! At this point I was keeping my fingers crossed, but amazingly, 9 out of 10 traps had residents!!

The groups were then involved in emptying the 'residents' into DEEP polythene bags and then everybody observed and discussed what we found. A very exciting moment! After a short examination the mice/voles were released.



The Catch

4 Yellow Necked
Mice, 4 Bank Voles, 1
Leopard Slug