



GET TOGETHERS
Bringing people together through food

Half Term Cook and Share Month family activities

Half Term is a great time to get family and friends involved in some autumn food-based activities. The weather should still be warm enough to get outside and you can combine some activities helping wildlife and pollinators as well as some indoor activities like cooking and sharing good food – perhaps to celebrate Harvest, Bonfire Night, Diwali or Halloween.

The **Plant and Share bee resource** would be a great place to start for a fun activity that helps you learn all about bees and the vital role they play in providing our food. You could even turn the Bee Facts into a **quiz**.

Did you know that Queen Bumble Bees can hibernate for up to nine months a year? They need to find somewhere dry over winter, where they are less likely to wake up early or get attacked by fungi. Some other bee species also hibernate, cocoon or seal nests containing their eggs until spring.

We can help bees and other beasties and bugs such as ladybirds, earwigs and butterflies by making places for them to nest. These can be a pile of undisturbed leaves at the bottom of your garden. An undisturbed log pile or if you fancy, you could make a smart, free hotel for them to check into!



Making a bug hotel



This activity should be completely free to do, you may have to borrow some sandpaper and a hammer from a neighbour if you don't have these.

Equipment

- Empty tin cans
- Can opener
- Sandpaper
- A small junior hacksaw
- Hammer
- A nail
- Dry bamboo, twigs, sticks, dry leaves, discarded tree bark, cardboard, loo roll tubes, small pinecones, hay or straw
- String
- Scissors

You could decorate your tins first – painting bee stripes or flowers

You could paint string black and yellow and wind on the tin, and glue to create bee stripes

If you are part of a school or community group you could use one big catering tin can to create a deluxe single tin hotel

You can hang a single tin from a tree, make sure it faces the sun and if possible, near some flowers in the spring

If you have some clay you can make a clay hotel, use a drill to drill out holes for bees
You could scale up and use an old wooden pallet and use the gaps to fill with old bricks, logs with holes drilled in and rolled cardboard – more info [here](#)

Did you know that different bugs and mini beasts require different things to hibernate or take shelter in?

- Bees like bamboo and tubes
- Ladybirds like dry leaves and wood shavings
- Woodlice and centipedes like it wet and damp!



How to make it



- 1 Soak the tin cans in some warm soapy water, using dish washing water at the end of a meal would work just fine
- 2 Dry the tins carefully – watch the sharp edges
- 3 Get an adult to help you remove the lid and base of the tin
- 4 Also get an adult to help you sand the tin to remove any sharp edges
- 5 Now decide how big you want your hotel and how many layers. Nine tins is a good number but you can do less
- 6 If you haven't already, head outside to gather the things to put inside your tin cans



- 7 Different minibeasts and bugs like different textures and spaces in their homes – some like the holes that bamboo has, some like to be between leaves. Create different 'rooms' in your hotel. You could have one with twigs or bamboo and another with leaves or hay to attract different minibeasts and bugs
- 8 Cut any bamboo, using a hacksaw, and snap twigs to the length of your tin can – an adult might have to help you with this, if you use cardboard roll it up into tubes



- 9 If you are going to hang single bug hotel tins you'll need to use a nail and hammer to make a hole in the tin, get an adult to help you do this. Then you can thread through some string or twine
- 10 Fill your tins, don't leave too many empty spaces, if you are using twigs or bamboo then stuff tight so nothing can fall out



- 11 Now decide where your new bug and mini beasts will check-in to their new hotel! You want somewhere quite quiet and not likely to be disturbed. Some good places would be behind a shed, in a backyard, on an allotment near the compost heap, or in the corner of a balcony
- 12 Check on your bug hotel from time to time to see who has taken up residence. Remember to take pictures and share them on social media, tagging **@SAfoodforlife**

Sunday 16th October – Friday 18th November

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