

NOTICEBOARD

THE GREAT 2020 BUG HUNT

Winners announced!! And this has by far and away been the best year EVER!

This competition, brought to you by the ASE and supported by the Royal Entomological Society (RES), takes science learning out of the classroom and brings it to life outdoors – literally so this year, as the competition, in light of COVID-19, was opened up to all primary school children to take part in from home.

With well over 1000 entries received, families have hunted and had fun together and the entries have shown how enterprising people have been in the current lock-down situation.

Spiders under beds to full



explorations of mealy bugs and their habitats and diets have made for a difficult shortlisting of entries. So hard in fact, that we now have, for the first time ever, two joint winners! The children explored habitats to discover and record some fascinating invertebrates. Their finds were then explained and displayed in workbooks, posters and factsheets, using graphs, photos, pictures and poems. Truly awe-inspiring work.

In the midst of a terrible pandemic, where schools have been closed and parents find themselves becoming teachers in their own homes, the Great Bug Hunt was a welcome breath of fresh air. (Parent of entrant)

The winning entries were chosen during National Insect Week (22–24 June) by a team of judges, including Francisca Sconce from the RES and Rebecca Dixon-Watmough from the ASE.

(Left) Henry's entry - a fabulous bug hotel!

(Right) Mali's entry - just a few of the huge variety of bugs she collected and identified

The joint first-prize winners are:

■ Henry, from the reception class at Sir Robert Geffery's School near Saltash, Cornwall, for his fabulous bug hotel.

■ Mali from Chandler CofE Junior School in Witley, Surrey, in the years 3 and 4 category, for her variety of bugs found.

They win a digital microscope and an 'insect day' at the school respectively.

The winners of the other categories are:

■ Years 1 and 2: Manseerat from Cotteridge Primary School, Birmingham.

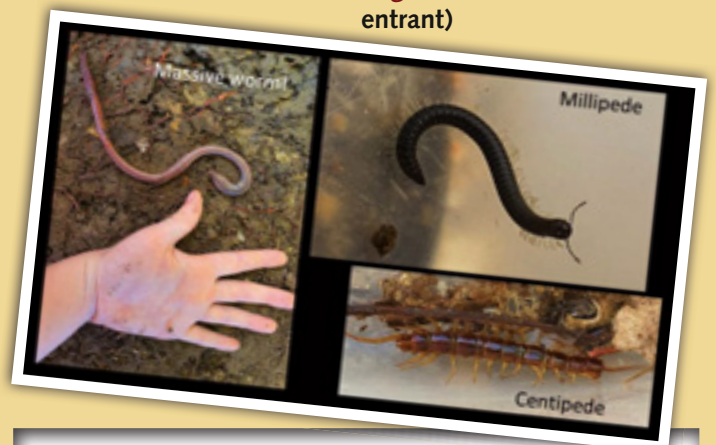
■ Years 5 and 6: Class entry from Edith Moorhouse Primary School, Carterton.

All winners will receive a selection of bug-hunting equipment from WildCare and Smartcases from Gratnells for their individual schools, plus goody bags from the RES.

All the children who entered will receive a certificate of achievement.

The Great Bug Hunt has been a fabulous way of spending time together as a family. We would never have had the time to do this had schools not been closed, so the home educating really came to the fore. This competition has truly enabled us to bond more, spending more time together, and for Henry's knowledge and his love of bugs to grow. (Mum of first prize winner Henry)

After being glued to computer screens for hours and sitting at tables doing endless drawings, colourings and craft tasks, an opportunity to get outdoors and explore nature was very therapeutic. The boys were very excited to look under pots to see which bugs they would find hiding there and then researching weird and wonderful facts, provided lots of laughter and wow moments. We can't thank you enough for this opportunity and look forward to participating again next year and learning about more wonderful bugs and nature. (Parent of entrant)



Details about the ASE 2021 Great Bug Hunt will appear in the pages of future issues of *Education in Science* and *Primary Science*, as well as on the ASE (www.ase.org.uk) and National Insect Week (www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk) websites.