



Sacred Heart - Growing Outside

Wednesday 30th June 2021

Weather: Hot and sunny

Growing Outside

Children:

Year 3

Pests and Diseases - slug 'cafes'

Today, in *Growing Outside*, it was lovely to have a sneaky extra session with Year 3, as the Year 6 children were enjoying their residential trip. We began by thinking about what might spoil our plants,

seeds or bulbs.

Like us, plants can get poorly.

They can also get eaten and attacked by

pests. There were lots of good suggestions like caterpillars, slugs, worms, ants, squirrels or even birds. Today, we were thinking specifically about slugs. They are such a nuisance in our gardens. We had a quick game of true or false using some slug facts.



SLUG FACTS

Slugs can live for up to 6 years.

Slugs can produce 90,000 grandchildren in their lifetime.

A slug is neither male or female – it is both and is called a hermaphrodite.

A slug has 27,000 teeth.

A Great White Shark only has 300 teeth!

Only 5% of slugs live above the ground.

A slug's blood is green.

Next, we went off in search of them after the children correctly told me that they like dark, damp places. We found lots under the potato growing bags, the plastic ramp and the plastic plant pots. We could see their silvery trail of slime that they leave behind when they move. One or two

children even held them!

We thought about two ways of getting rid of them. Either taking away everything they eat or moving them away from our plants. The children all decided on the second option.

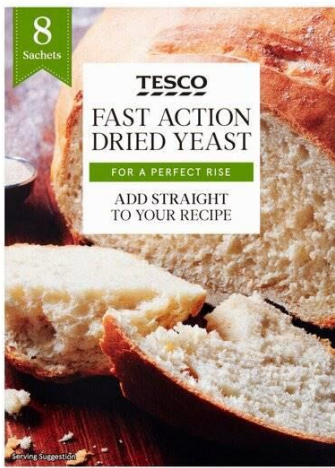


We decided that we needed to give the

slugs something tasty to eat that would distract them from our plants. We thought about making them their own special café, where they could sit and have a drink. A re-used plastic bottle makes the perfect café. We looked together at lots of different designs before the children split themselves into two groups and designed their own. If you lie a bottle down on its side, it has a roof to shelter the slugs and the opening where the lid usually is makes the perfect little doorway!

We had a look at some of the choices we could offer the slugs:

- Apple and blackcurrant cordial
- Marmite and water
- Yeast, sugar and water



Each pair of children decided on what was going to be on the menu in their café. Marmite has a really strong smell and has yeast in it, something which slugs love. The children had a smell of it and there were very mixed opinions!

Carefully, the chosen mixture was added to each of the bottles so that there was just enough that it wouldn't pour out of the hole or drown the slugs. Next, we took our cafes to the most suitable spots - somewhere dark and damp near the fruit bushes.

Now we need to make sure the cafes are checked every day so that we can take the slugs somewhere else before refilling the bottles and putting them back down again. One of the boys suggested the compost bin would be a good place for them and that's exactly right! Well done everyone, fingers crossed the slugs love your cafes more than they love the plants!

Mrs Grainger

Did you know that in an average sized garden, there are about 20,000 slugs? If anyone ever invents something to get rid of every slug in our gardens, they will be very rich!

