Hedgehog Friendly Campus

As you may be aware, our school is working towards becoming a hedgehog friendly school which is an awarded programme funded by The British Hedgehog Preservation Society for schools and universities to make impactful changes for hedgehogs. The award levels are Bronze, Silver and Gold. We will certainly make it to the bronze level, but we are really hoping to achieve silver - with a bit of hard work, help and determination.

The aim of the programme is to educate children and young adults about the life, habitat and hazards facing our hedgehog population. Hedgehogs have recently become endangered and are classified as 'Vulnerable to Extinction,' as the population of hedgehogs has depleted by 75% in the last 20 years, which is a shocking statistic.

Here at Carlton Colville, we are involved in lots of activities and actions to help raise awareness of the plight of these amazing creatures as well as encouraging hedgehogs to use our school grounds as a safe haven. We will be sharing our progress over the coming weeks.

Actions we have already taken:

- We have installed and maintained several hedgehog houses on our school meadow area
- We have lots of bug hotels and log piles to attract insects for hedgehog snacks and for pollination and all the other useful jobs insects do. We have plans to build some new ones in the summer.
- We have been finding out hedgehog facts and how to identify and help hedgehogs that might be sick or injured
- We have twice weekly litter picks on the field and meadow
- We are in the process of setting up some hedgehog feeding stations
- We have made sure school landscaping and maintenance equipment have 'check for hedgehogs' stickers on them
- We have done an audit of hedgehog hazards at the pond and across our school grounds.
- We have been doing research into the lives of hedgehogs and producing posters and powerpoints with all the information.

This is such an exciting project and we look forward to updating you with what else we've been up to in order to help British Hedgehogs.

Looking for hedgehog hazards

Making our hedgehog houses all cosy!

We think this hole under this pile of twigs was made by a hedgehog looking for a snuggly hide away.

Please take a look at the following websites to find out more about hedgehogs in the UK:
https://www.hedgehogfriendlycampus.co.uk/
https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/
https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/