

We are inviting primary schools in East Sussex and East and South Kent to register their interest in taking part in our Perfect Pollinators Bee project. Presently, we are in the process of securing funding so that the project can be completely free of charge to all participating schools. If you are interested in an exciting, ground breaking project that will inspire your pupils to learn about one of our most important creatures, please read on!

## Why your school should consider taking part in Perfect Pollinators

- Improve young people's understanding of the pollinator's critical role in food production
- Allow children to directly experience the complete life cycle of some of our key pollinators with emphasis on the Red Mason Bee (*Osmia bicornis*) linking with the requirements of the National Curriculum
- Develop habitats within the school grounds to benefit all pollinators
- Watch online live video of activity inside your school beehive!
- Improve the public's understanding of the importance of our pollinators



## Perfect Pollinators – The lifecycle of a Bee

Every school in the project will receive a webcam beehive, a colony of approximately 40 Red Mason bees and a pack of Meadow Seeds. Our team will visit your school in January to fit the hive on an outer facing wall, and take an assembly explaining the vital role bees perform as pollinators. Following this visit, your pupils will plant and create a meadow flower garden in your school grounds in advance of the Queen bees exiting hibernation and laying their eggs in the hive.

From the end of March to the start of July, your pupils will be able to watch the incredible sight of the larvae growing and the male bees working in the hive, live from your webcam beehive. Then, at the end of the summer term, our Team will visit your school again, talk to your pupils about what they have learned and remove your excess bees from the hive so they can be donated to a local farm where they can continue pollinating crops. The bees left in the hive will then hibernate ready for the cycle to start again the following year.

**In taking part in this exciting science based project, your pupils will be helping maintain vital bee stocks and supporting the work of local producers who work to provide the food that we all eat.**

### About the Red Mason Bees

Red mason bees are excellent pollinators, particularly of apple trees. These bees are not aggressive and will only sting if handled very roughly between the fingers (even then, the sting of a Red Mason bee is not painful like that of a wasp or bumble bee). They are safe to be closely observed by children.



## Interested in taking part? Be quick, there are just 12 spaces available!

Perfect Pollinators is a ground breaking partnership project involving local producers and schools. If you would like to register your school's interest in taking part, please complete the online form at [www.perfectpollinators.org.uk](http://www.perfectpollinators.org.uk), or return the attached registration form by Friday 24th July 2015. Interested schools will be contacted by us in late September/early October.