



ST COLUMBA'S FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

HELLO FAMILIES OF ST COLUMBA'S

Sometimes, when you haven't heard about someone/something, or don't know very much about them – suddenly, you hear mention of a person/thing, and then very quickly, the same thing comes up, from a different source. Taken together, you begin to feel – “I should be paying attention to this person/idea/thing.”

This week it has been bees. First came a fascinating talk about bees, honey-making, and hives. Second, came instructions for making a Bee Water Station (see photo.)

Bees need water, of course, especially on hot days to supplement the pollen and the nectar. They use it for their digestion. In addition, it is used in the hive to dilute the honey to the right constituency and to cool down the hive when it becomes hot. This is achieved by an appropriate flapping of wings! Bees work extremely hard – flying at 16 miles per hour and flapping their wings 230 times per second.

A church friend told me about the present he had recently made for his wife. First, he collected a variety of stones with different shapes, sizes and colours from the beach. He decorated them colourfully with special fluorescent pens and placed them in a shallow terracotta dish, to hold the water. Bees are in danger of drowning in bird baths and garden ponds. They need shallow water and an easy way to access it. The bee bath goes some way to achieve this. Later this year it will be placed outside.

In the 'Dictionary of Christian Art', the home of bees, a beehive is described/held up as an image/picture of what a church should be – “a unified community where all work with diligence and harmony to spread the honeyed words of the gospel.’ Bees play such a wonderful part in the life of the world, perhaps you might be inspired to make your own Bee Water Station. And the young people of St Columba's definitely have a part to play in making our life together sweet and tasty. In the meantime, I hope all worker bees have had a good week of learning, play and peace (or at least some moments of...)