



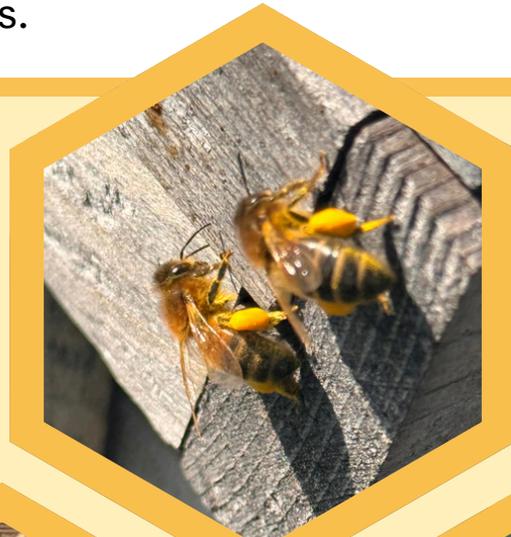
# BEE BLOG

## SPRING UPDATE: THE BUZZ IS BACK!

As the winter chill finally lifts and the Henlow Academy campus begins to burst into life, there is an unmistakable hum in the air. Our Bee Project is officially waking up for the new season! Spring is arguably the most critical and industrious time of year for a honey bee colony. After months of huddling together in a "winter cluster" to stay warm, our bees are now venturing out to take advantage of the early blossoms.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE THE HIVE?

Throughout the winter, the Queen Bee stops laying eggs to conserve the colony's honey stores. However, as the days lengthen and the first sources of nectar appear, she begins her marathon performance once again. She can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day during this peak season! This rapid expansion is essential to build a "foraging force" large enough to collect the nectar needed for the year ahead.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HENLOW'S BEES PLEASE CONTACT MRS EVANS



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE "POLLEN PANTS"

If you take a close look at our latest photos from the Henlow hives, you'll see something incredible. Our bees are returning with bulging, bright yellow baskets on their hind legs. In the beekeeping world, we affectionately call these "pollen pants." These aren't just for show! Pollen is the colony's primary source of protein and fats, which is vital for feeding the developing larvae (the "brood"). The different shades of yellow and orange you see tell us exactly which flowers the bees have been visiting around the Academy grounds.

## SPRING ESSENTIALS: WHAT THE BEES ARE UP TO

- **House Cleaning:** The first warm days are spent on "cleansing flights." The bees remove any debris or bees that didn't survive the winter to keep the hive hygienic.
- **Water Collection:** You might see bees around damp patches of soil or pond edges. They need water to dilute their stored honey and to help regulate the temperature inside the hive.
- **Nectar Foraging:** The hunt is on for early-season stars like crocuses, dandelions, and fruit tree blossoms. This nectar is the "rocket fuel" that powers the colony's growth.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The early spring can be a "gap" period where food is scarce. You can support our Henlow bees at home by:

1. **Leaving the Dandelions:** They are one of the most important early food sources for pollinators!
2. **Planting Spring Bulbs:** Crocuses and snowdrops provide a vital early-season snack.
3. **Providing Water:** A shallow dish with stones (so the bees have a place to land without drowning) is a huge help.

We are so excited to see the colony thriving as we move toward the summer. Stay tuned for more updates as we begin our first hive inspections of the year!

