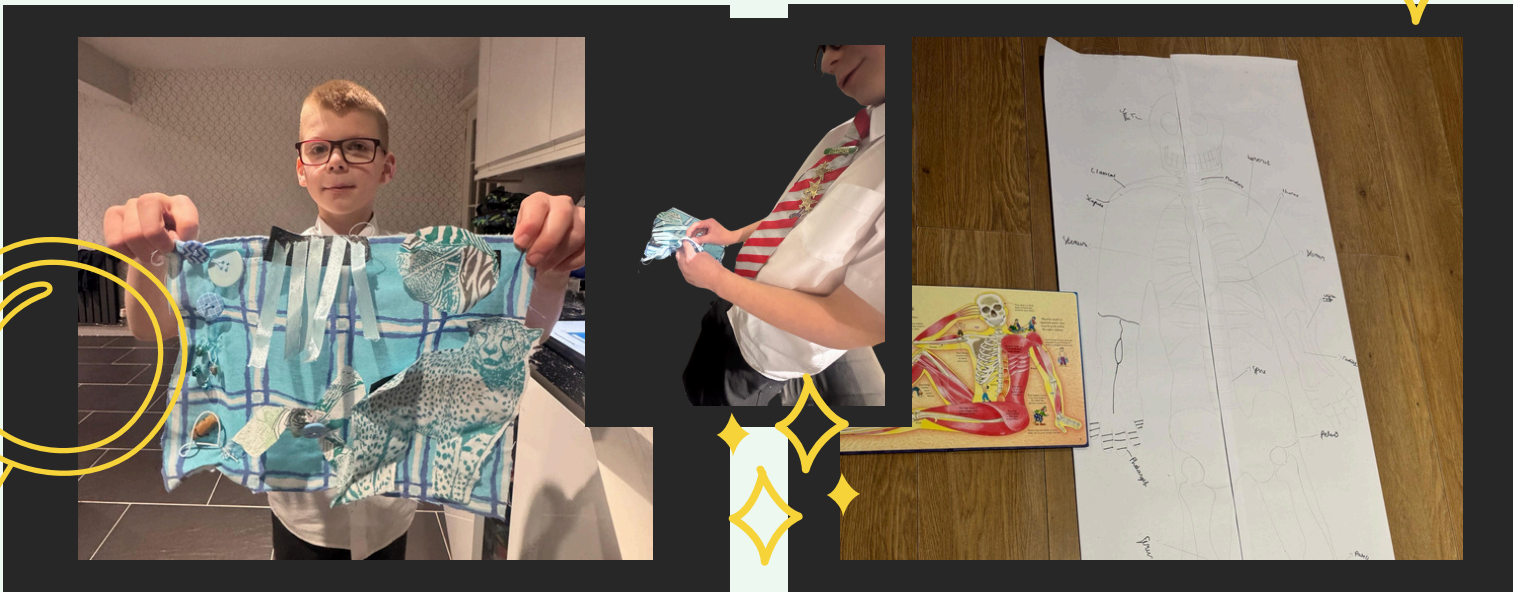


# CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY CHALLENGES

Welcome to our February Challenge Sheet! This term, we thought we'd join together to celebrate National Nest Box Week by exploring the wonderful world of birds. We've put together a variety of fun and educational activities that will help you learn more about our feathered friends and their habitats. From imagining and creating to cooking and experimenting, there's something for everyone. So, let's spread our wings and dive into these exciting challenges!

First up this term we are turning our attention to Wickhambrook Primary Academy who share weekly challenges on their Dojo page. Following their challenges Mason made a sensory blanket and created a labelled skeleton. Great work Mason!

To be featured in our next Challenge Sheet email [childrensuni@unityspe.co.uk](mailto:childrensuni@unityspe.co.uk) with your story and photo.



## Let's imagine

### Humming Birds by Betty Sage

I think it is a funny thing  
That some birds whistle, others sing  
The Warbler warbles in his throat.  
The Sparrow only knows one note;  
but he is better off than ,  
for hummingbirds can only hum.



### 1 Learning hour

Let's write a poem about birds! You can make your poem rhyme or just write it in your own special way. Here are some ideas to help you get started:

**Use Your Senses:** Write about what you see, hear, and feel when you think about birds.

**Include Actions:** Think about what birds do. Do they sing, fly, build nests, or search for food?

**Add Feelings:** How do birds make you feel? Do they make you happy, excited, or curious? Share your feelings in your poem.

# Let's create

 1.5 x Learning hour



Making a bird feeder is a fun and easy way to help birds in your neighborhood. By giving them food, especially in the cold months when it's hard for them to find enough to eat, you help them stay strong and healthy. Feeding birds helps them have enough energy to build nests and raise their babies. It's a great way to enjoy nature and make a difference for our feathered friends!

# Let's experiment

 2 x Learning hours



Conduct an experiment to learn about bird behaviour. Set up different types of bird feeders outside, each with different types of food (e.g., seeds, nuts, fruit). Observe which types of food attract the most birds and which types of birds visit each feeder. Record your observations and see if you can identify any patterns.





# Let's cook



1 x Learning hour

Birds need energy to build their nests. Make some bird-friendly treats like seed balls or suet cakes. Hang them outside and watch the birds enjoy their feast!

You will need:

Lard | Muesli | Dried Fruit | Mixed seeds | String

This is a great project which is fun and messy!



Put a blob of lard into a bowl. Add muesli, dried fruit, mixed seeds or mixed bird feed. You should aim for one handful of lard to two handfuls of feed.

Then use your hands to mash everything together. Try to push the feed right through the lard until the two are really well mixed.

Shape the mixture into a ball. Push your thumbs into the top of the ball and gently break it in half. Add a loop of string in the middle and squish the ball back together. It should make a 'bauble' for the birds!

Hang the fat balls up on a tree or shrub for the birds. And make sure to provide a shallow dish of fresh water too for the birds to drink.

# Let's move



2 x Learning hours

Pretend you are a bird getting ready to build a nest for your future family. Birds use all sorts of materials to make their nests cozy and safe. Your mission is to gather materials like sticks, leaves, grass, and any other natural items you can find around your garden or park. Once you have your materials, it's time to get creative and build your very own bird nest!

1. Gather Materials: Take a walk and collect materials that birds might use for their nests. Look for small sticks, dry leaves, grass, feathers, and even bits of moss. Remember to be gentle with nature and only take what you need.
2. Plan Your Nest: Think about where you want to build your nest. Birds often choose safe, hidden spots to protect their eggs and chicks. You can build your nest on the ground, in a tree, or even on a sturdy surface like a table.
3. Start Building: Begin by arranging the sticks in a circular shape to form the base of your nest. Use the leaves and grass to line the inside, making it soft and comfortable. You can use glue or string to help hold the materials together if needed.
4. Test the Sturdiness: Once your nest is complete, gently press on it to see how sturdy it is. Does it hold its shape? Would it be a safe place for bird eggs? If it falls apart, try adding more materials or rearranging them to make it stronger.
5. Reflect: Think about how much effort it took to build your nest. Birds work very hard to create safe homes for their families. This activity helps you understand the dedication and skill birds have when building their nests.

## Contact Details

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