

Risk Assessment for Year 2 Ant Farm

Date: Spring Term 2 2016

Carried out by: Miss E Pascali



ISSUE Significant issues	HOW TO MANAGE IT What procedures will we have? (Control measures)	Who to be informed		
		PARENTS	STAFF	PUPILS
Living arrangements	The ant farm shall live in the Year 2 classroom and not removed under any circumstances. It shall be covered at night to keep the ant colony at a suitable temperature.	x	x	x
Disrupting the ant colony	The ant farm must not be moved, shaken or touched, as this will disturb the ants and potentially damage their very delicate sand tunnels. The children will be encouraged to observe them with magnifying glasses. Guidelines and signs advising appropriate treatment of the ants and the ant farm will be clearly displayed for all.	x	x	x
Providing food and water	The ants will be given a special protein syrup as their food. This will be supplied by AntHouse and administered into the ant farm via a pipette every 2-3 days. Miss Pascali will carry this out. The ants will be supplied water via a water dispenser. Miss Pascali shall top up the water as needed.	x	x	x
Ants escaping from Ant Farm	The ant farm will be purchased from a reputable source (AntHouse) that provides high quality and safe ant farm housing/equipment. The children and other staff members will be advised not to open the ant house under any circumstances, unless by Miss Pascali for feeding/cleaning. In the unlikely case of any ants escaping from the ant farm, the following action shall be taken place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ant farm shall be vigorously checked for any unwanted openings - Any openings, cracks or damaged areas shall be rectified/fixed immediately - Fruit and any food in the classroom shall be removed and discarded 	x	x	x

Ant bites	<p>If any ants do escape (as described above), a first aider shall treat any ant bites accordingly and parents shall be informed.</p> <p>Please note that the ant colony consists of Common Black Garden ants (<i>Lasius niger</i>) which are harmless and do not sting.</p>	x	x	x
Allergies	Children/staff known to have severe allergic reactions to ant bites will checked and cleared before purchasing the ant farm.	x	x	x
Hygiene/Infection	<p>Any persons administering food or water into the ant farm, as well as attending to cleaning duties (Miss Pascali) should thoroughly wash their hands with soap and hot water after doing so.</p> <p>All wounds on exposed skin shall be suitably covered. Foodstuff shall be stored carefully to prevent contamination and infestation.</p>			
Dead ants / debris	Dead ants and any unwanted debris shall be removed via a special pair of tweezers supplied by AntHouse. Miss Pascali shall do this.			
Pesticide use	Pesticides shall not be used near the ant farm as this will kill them.	x	x	x

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