

# **Celebrating World Bee Day at Multrees Walk**

**To celebrate World Bee Day on 20 May Multrees Walk invited school pupils from Leith Walk Primary School to visit their urban bees.**

The pupils wore beekeeping suits to get close to the hives trying to spot the queen bee and learning about worker bees.

Urban beekeeping, as it's known, aims to address the decline in bee populations while encouraging environmental regeneration within city setting communities. Multrees Walk, alongside Scottish sustainable honey business, Webster Honey, is not only contributing to this bee conservation but also creating educational opportunities for schools to learn more about the importance of urban bee keeping.

Leigh Aitchison, Centre Manager for Multrees Walk said: "We are obviously well known for being home to some of the world's most famous designer brands, but we are also proud to be home to over 250,000 honeybees. Perched high on the roof, Multrees Walk provides the perfect setting and a safe environment for the bees. The bees can fly up to three miles, with Princes Street Gardens, Holyrood Park, Inverleith Park and the Meadows all easily accessible from the roof of Multrees Walk."

Meik Molitor, Head Beekeeper at Webster Honey said: "I absolutely love getting to teach children about honeybees – how important they are to our ecology and how much we need them for our food. But the best thing is seeing their reaction when I open the hive and how they get really engaged and

involved with actually tending the hive.”

“Bees thrive in a number of areas and do just as well in urban settings as they do in rural locations. By integrating rooftop apiaries into our shopping centres, we are building a deeper connection between people and the natural world.” Meik continued.

Honey from the hives is collected once or twice a year (after the summer months) to make delicious jars of honey. Each hive can produce on average 20-25kg of honey (90 – 110 jars) each year but Webster Honey only take the extra honey, leaving enough to feed the bees through the winter months.

[www.multreeswalk.co.uk/whats-happening/](http://www.multreeswalk.co.uk/whats-happening/)

<https://www.websterhoney.com>

All photos Julie Howden



Children from Leith Walk primary school in Edinburgh learn about bees and beekeeping on an educational visit to the rooftop beehives of Multrees Walk shopping district, Edinburgh.





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