

# Newsletter 28

Friday 28th April 2023

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## Stunning STEM Week

This week we have been celebrating everything that is amazing about STEM- science, technology, engineering and maths. The children have had lots of opportunities to work as scientists, carrying out investigations which linked to our overall theme of 'connections'. We have been very fortunate to have the wonderful team from 'Fab Science' working with the children all week and also many of our parents who generously gave their time to come along and inspire the children with demonstrations from their particular subject areas and jobs. Nothing motivates the children more than being 'hands on' when it comes to their learning but it is also so important for them to see how their learning at school is transposed into real jobs and careers. I hope you enjoy some of the photographs we have taken this week for the newsletter and the comments made by the children, as they show what an important part STEM plays in our lives and how much the children have loved their learning this week.

Mrs Howell

## Head Lice Are Back!



Over the past week we have received reports from a number of parents that they have found head lice in their children's hair. As is always the case, once these tricky little creatures are established they spread across the school very quickly. The only way to really keep them at bay is by regularly checking your child's hair.

The NHS recommends that you check your child's hair every week using a fine toothed detection comb (available from pharmacies) in the following way

- wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
- comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends

It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair. Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

If you find live lice or eggs (nits) it is very important that you treat your child's hair immediately and other members of your household. Your pharmacist will be able to advise you about suitable treatments. Sadly there is nothing you can do to prevent head lice but you can reduce the risk of head to head transmission by checking your child's hair thoroughly every week and by keeping long hair tied up as this reduces the opportunity for head lice to catch on to children's hair. Thank you for your vigilance.

### NEU Strike Action

Unfortunately, the National Education Union has been unable to reach an agreement with the government regarding a fully-funded, above inflation pay rise for teaching staff. Consequently, members of the NEU will be taking further strike action on Tuesday 2nd May. In addition the NEU executive will make a further announcement in May if they will be holding three days of strike action in June and July.

Legally, members of the NEU do not have to inform their Headteacher if they are taking strike action, so it is difficult to determine the extent of the disruption the strikes will cause. We will endeavour to give parents and carers as much notice as possible if some classes do have to close and apologise in advance for the disruption this will inevitably cause.

All decisions regarding the closure of classes will always be made on Health and Safety grounds as the safety and wellbeing of all our children remains our priority. Thank you for your understanding.

### Introducing the Governors

What does a school governor do? The governors work with the headteacher and the staff at our school to make sure the school provides the highest quality education for all its pupils. Our governors come from a range of backgrounds but they all have the ability to listen, think through new ideas and decide what is best for the school as part of a team. The governing body provides strategic direction for the school, works with the headteacher to raise standards, promotes the well being of pupils and ensures the school is accountable. Each week I will be introducing one of the members of our governing body.

The current Chair of the governing body is Sharon McLaughlin. Initially Sharon was elected as a parent governor in May 2017, before becoming a co-opted governor. Sharon is also the link governor for safeguarding, health and safety and inclusion, including SEND.

When not supporting Mrs Howell and the staff in school, Sharon works as a Registered Forensic Psychologist in private practice.

Sharon says, "I believe that in my role as a governor, I am able to cast an independent eye over the workings of the school and assist and work alongside the existing governors in carrying out their important and valuable work." Sharon is passionate about improving children's emotional health and mental wellbeing and feels we should all work together to provide the best outcomes possible for every child.



### Headteacher Drop Ins

Mrs Howell, the Headteacher, will be offering parent drop ins for anyone who wishes to discuss any aspect of school life throughout the Summer term. The dates can be found below, but please remember that these are offered on a first come, first served basis and you may therefore have to wait to be seen if there are a number of people waiting to meet with Mrs Howell.

Friday 5th May 2.30—3.30pm

Wednesday 5th July 4.30—5.30pm

Wednesday 17th May 8.30—9.30am

Monday 17th July 2.00—3.00pm

Thursday 8th June 4.00—5.00pm

Tuesday 20th June 9.30—10.30am



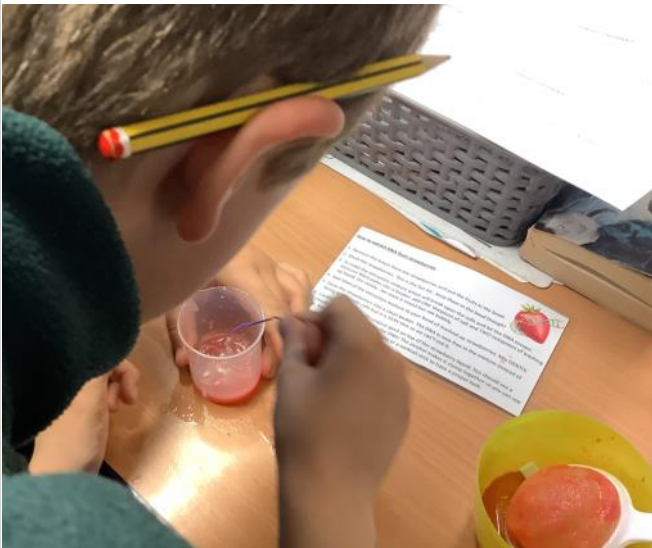


## STEM in Action



We were able to explore a range of topics and options of what we can do for jobs in the future.

*Mostafa*



Working with the Scientists has shown us how they solve problems in their jobs.

*Noah*

The Scientists showed us so much about the real world and how the things around us are made.

*Daniela*





**Could you inspire the next generation of cyclist?**

**We are searching for Cycle Instructors to join our expanding Bikeability team.**



**We are looking for confident communicators to deliver fun and inspirational cycle training in schools.**

If you have loads of enthusiasm to share and are looking for rewarding work to deliver during school term time, we would love to hear from you.

**Role:** Employed—Variable Hours

**Hourly Rate:** £12 plus holiday pay. We have an employee benefits scheme too!

**Cycle Training Programme:** Bikeability

**Training and Support:** We provide full, free training and ongoing support including nationally recognised qualifications.

**For more information, please contact Graham:**

**[jobs@outspokentraining.co.uk](mailto:jobs@outspokentraining.co.uk)**

**01223 473820**

**[www.outspokentraining.co.uk](http://www.outspokentraining.co.uk)**

### **FORTHCOMING DATES SUMMER TERM 2023**

1st May	May Bank Holiday
2nd May	NEU strike action—school open
2nd to 3rd May	Year 4 residential trip to Burwell House
5th May	Celebrations in school to mark the King's coronation
8th May	Bank Holiday to celebrate the King's coronation
9th to 12th May	Key Stage 2 SATS week
16th May	Year 5 performance at 2pm
18th May	Year 5 performance at 6pm
19th May	Blue Class Assembly
22nd to 26th May	PGL week for Year 6
24th May	Reception Summer Singing Performance at 9.30 am
25th May	Reception Summer Singing Performance at 2.00 pm
26th May	Break up for Half Term
5th June	INSET Day
15th June	Whole School Tudor WOW Day
16th June	Class photographs
20th June	Year 3 performance at 2.00 pm
21st June	Reception and KS1 Sports Day (Reserve Sports day on 23rd June)
22nd June	Year 3 performance at 2.00 pm
23rd June	Phoenix Class Assembly
28th June	Key Stage 2 Sports Day (Reserve Sports Day on 4th July)
30th June	Cygnus Class assembly
5th July	Reception Come and Share
6th July	New Reception parent evening
7th July	Reports sent out to parents and carers
11th July	Year 6 performance at 6.00 pm
12th July	Year 6 reports and SATS results sent out to parents and carers
13th July	Year 6 performance at 6.00 pm
18th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly at 10.00 am
19th July	Last day of the Summer term and school year

# Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of those children who may be especially noticed for demonstrating learning or behaviour that we feel should be recognised and commended. This week I would like to congratulate:

Can in Indigo Class: Can has an amazing knowledge of Science. He astounded me this week when he told me that the planet Jupiter is so big, more than 1,300 Earths would fit inside it. Fantastic work Can, keep up the fantastic learning.

Hamza in Violet Class: Hamza is so determined when it come to his learning and has impressed us all by the huge effort he has put in to his reading and his phonics. You are a great example of what hard work can achieve Hamza. Well done, we are very proud of you.

Harmony in Dorado Class: It has been wonderful to see Harmony's confidence growing over the course of this term and to see how much she is enjoying her learning in Year 3. She never gives up and it is so good to see that perseverance pays off. Well done Harmony.

## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to find some 3D shaped objects around the house.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you how to make a 'potty potion'.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you what things they could do to be kind to animals.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you how fossils are formed.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you what a conductor does in Science.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain how you can extract DNA from a strawberry.

Ask your Year 6 child to describe the properties of the four different types of angle.

### Nail Varnish and Jewellery

Please can we remind you that children are not permitted to wear nail varnish in school. We would be grateful if you could ensure that your child removes all makeup and nail varnish before coming to school.

The only items of jewellery permitted to be worn are wrist watches, cultural or religious adornments and studs for pierced ears, all of which MUST be removed during school PE lessons, for health and safety reasons. The school cannot accept responsibility for removing or storing studs and items that are removed cannot be stored communally to avoid contagion/infections. The Local Authority PE advisor has informed us that silicone studs, such as the ones pictured here, can be worn safely in PE lessons. These can be purchased online from Amazon or Claire's Accessories.







For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: [clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk) or by telephoning 01954 273377.

To speak with a member of the Care and Learning Centre staff please telephone 01954 273301

### Room News

This week, the children were thrilled by the arrival of our four live caterpillars. When they first arrived they were really tiny, but each day they have grown visibly bigger. We have enjoyed listening to the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' as well as watching a real life film of a caterpillar changing into a butterfly. We have learnt some new vocabulary such as 'cocoon', 'chrysalis' and even 'metamorphosis'! The children were totally in awe of this process and are looking forward to watching the life-cycle progress with our class caterpillars before they are released into the pre-school garden.

The children have also taken the minibeast theme into their child-initiated play, searching for bugs in the garden and using the magnifying glasses to look at ladybirds, worms and ants they have found. We have talked about how important it is to care for all creatures, and that we must be very gentle with any bugs that we find. Over the next few weeks, we will be reading some more of the Eric Carle minibeast books such as, 'The Very Busy Spider' and 'The Very Quiet Cricket'.



Jane Turner, Early Years Teacher