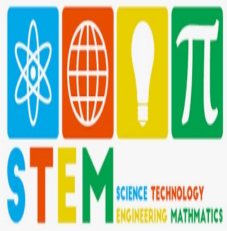


Newsletter 31

Friday 28th May 2021

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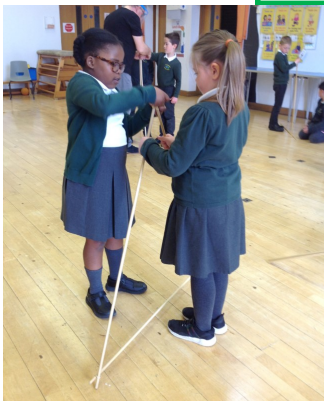
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week

We know that project based learning helps to reinforce important concepts and that by turning everyday occurrences into learning opportunities, learning becomes more meaningful. As part of STEM week this year, we combined a mix of practical and hands on activities with virtual presentations to get the children applying their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and maths to spark curiosity about the world around them. Learning is a lot easier when it is driven by genuine interest, so you can imagine how much learning was going on when the children accepted an architectural challenge based around the principles of triangle! The classes learnt how effective and strong the triangle can be and how it is key to many architectural designs. To demonstrate this, they developed their own tunnels made from triangular canes which they had joined together, firstly in pairs, and then as a team to create a tunnel as you can see in the photos below.

Several visitors also joined us virtually, and they included presentations from professionals who work in the world of STEM, as well as students from Cambourne Village College. The students provided our children with 3 challenges, that were: building a strong tower using just spaghetti and marshmallows, developing their own blue dye using natural materials, and also completing a poster competition to demonstrate innovative thinking. Some of our inventive children came up with spacesuit designs, bedroom cleaning robots and even an invisible, incredible helmet for protection on cycle rides! Children also designed and made their own energy fuelling bars, based upon their knowledge of science and proportions.

The University of Cambridge Engineering Department provided us with demonstrations to help us understand how to create the perfect paper aeroplane and how the effects of aero-dynamics, lift and drag can affect the performance of a flight. Miles said, "We learnt that by making the wings more rounded, this would create more lift."

Thank you to all of the parents who have been able to give their time to holding virtual workshops with our children this year. Those who helped us have provided invaluable insights into the jobs that they do and have provided them with some excellent role models. We hope that your children have told you all about their new experiences this week and how much they have enjoyed the wonderful range of activities organised by Mr Yates, our Science leader.



Staff News

Mr Attfield, who was both a Teaching Assistant and Midday Supervisor at Monkfield Park, has left our school this week, after six years supporting children in our school. We wish Mr Attfield the very best as we know that lots of children benefitted from his kind and caring nature.



Reflection Garden—still time to give

Thank you to all who have donated kindly to the Rocketfund page in order to contribute to our plans for a school reflection garden, in memory of Dilni. There is still time to donate and this can be done by [clicking here](#). There have been so many kind comments on the Rocketfund page and donations of any amount are gratefully received.



Break the rules day



We know that children in our school are so good at following the school expectations at all times, but today was a fun chance for them to go wild and break the rules as a special event to raise money for the Friends of Monkfield Park. For one day only, children were given permission to wear non school uniform, a tattoo, dye their hair and wear nail varnish amongst an array of other things, in exchange for money. The money raised from this event will go towards our reflection garden project mentioned in this newsletter, so thank you for supporting this and we do hope that your children had fun breaking the rules!

Headteacher Roll of Honour

Charlotte in Green Class—Charlotte has shown us that she is growing in confidence with her work in Maths. She is using her practise in school to make lots of 'catch up' progress.

Michelle in Green Class—Michelle gave real thought to her design for our reflection garden during our pod afternoon last week. She had taken the time to consider some very calming features that could be enjoyed in this new space.

Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to name four 3-D shapes that they know.

Ask your Year 1 child to use adjectives to describe the dinosaur they have created.

Ask your Year 2 child which 'Magic Science trick' they enjoyed the most?

Ask your Year 3 child about their architecture workshop.

Ask your Year 4 child what is meant by 'innovation'.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you some of the things they learnt during STEM week.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain the order of operations.



Life is a banquet in our Reception Classes

Reception have enjoyed their topic this half term of fairy-tales and to bring this theme to an end they celebrated with a fairy-tale banquet. The princes and princesses adorned their best clothing and danced together to classical music and in a true banquet style, had a feast! "This has been the best day ever!" said Florence.



Forthcoming Dates

w/c 31st May—Half term

7th June—INSET day (school closed to children)

8th June—INSET day (school closed to children)

9th June—Children return

11th June—Indigo Class assembly at 9.15am (via Zoom, if necessary)

18th June—Lacerta Class assembly at 9.15am (via Zoom, if necessary)

21st June—Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day practise (all children to wear PE kits)

22nd June—Year 4 Mini Olympics (more details to follow)

23rd June—Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day (more details to follow)

24th June—Reserve Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day

28th June—Key Stage 2 sports day practise (all children to wear PE kits)

30th June—Key Stage 2 sports day (more details to follow)

1st July—Reserve Key Stage 2 sports day

1st July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am

2nd July—Columba Class assembly at 9.15am(via Zoom, if necessary)

7th July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am

7th July —New Reception parents' evening at 6.00pm (more details to follow)

8th & 9th July—Year 6 new intake days at Cambourne Village College

13th July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am

14th July—Year 6 production at 2pm (via Zoom, if necessary)

15th July—Year 6 production at 6pm (via Zoom, if necessary)

21st July—Year 6 Leavers' assembly at 10am (via Zoom, if necessary)

22nd July—Last day of Summer term

23rd July—Start of Summer holidays

These dates may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance.