

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 15th 2019

Dear Parents,

The whole school community has thoroughly enjoyed our STEM Week - thank you to everyone who has supported the week by: visiting school, giving talks, leading activities and providing resources!

Year 6 Collective Worship

Well done Class 6 for leading an inclusive assembly on our big question of "Is everything connected?" We found your information on famous scientists very interesting and were impressed with how you connected so many events together from just one week! Everyone enjoyed 'connecting together' around the school hall - well done.

STEM Week Highlights

Key Stage One

Reception Class have loved STEM week. They have built and measured towers made out of playdough and buttons and used magnets to create Jackson Pollock style art.

Class 1 have worked hard to make 'sound soup' this week. The recipe included lots of tricky sounds for them to learn. The final ingredients; fairy dust and raindrops created an exciting chemical reaction... and quite an interesting smell!!! Class 1 have also enjoyed using their STEM skills with bubble painting and making newspaper bridges.

Class 2 have been very busy constructing balloon powered cars; making marble runs; designing paper airplanes (thank you to Mrs Fraser for your help); exploding shapes and investigating the Vitruvian man. They also enjoyed making boats to carry apples and testing them.

On Thursday, Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 all worked together throughout the morning. Activities included: making bubble wands; building rafts with natural materials and testing the strength of different shapes. We used the Science Museum's recipe for bubble mixture which adds glycerin to the water and washing up liquid (if you want to try this at home). Key Stage One also had fun designing and flying paper planes. Even though it was rather windy, we still got to launch them outside and watch them fly.

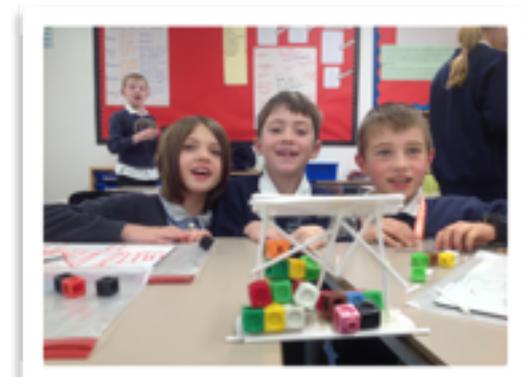


Key Stage Two

Year 3 have enjoyed a wide variety of STEM based activities this week. Favourites included: making fossils, producing jelly fossil layers, weaving, making their own leaf animals and constructing 'Biscuithenge'!



During STEM Week, Year 4 have enjoyed playing some maths games as well as becoming engineers to design and build bridges. They have researched different types of electricity and made short videos on the iPads to explain this. They particularly enjoyed their visits from Ms Van Ron and Mr Farrimond.



Year 5 have had a busy week exploring STEM subjects across the week. They have constructed geodesic domes; made marble runs; built spaghetti bridges; built and tested - helicopters, aeroplanes and gliders and today they had great fun with their 'egg nauts'!



Year 6 enjoyed an 'Egg Olympiad' morning with a series of challenges to overcome with their eggs. The class also completed a maths challenge, code breaking activities and wrote biographies for a range of successful scientists.



STEM Week Visitors

Thank you to all of our visitors who have supported this theme week. The school has been a lively hub of awe and wonder as new areas have been explored and challenges faced using lots of invention skills and boundless creativity.

Class 2 and Class 6 had visits from **Mr Spotswood** on Thursday, who explained what Genetic Engineering was and gave an interesting talk, the children were especially interested in the singing mice! Class 6 were really interested in the concept of genetic engineering and were really engaged and challenged by Mr Spotswood's excellent ethical considerations and questions. Thank you for inspiring our future scientists Mr Spotswood!



Many thanks to **Mr Andrew Taylor** who visited Year One and Year Three to give separate talks linked to communities and settlements. Children were interested to learn about the processes involved in creating new developments. This will really help them in their geography and history topics this term. Throughout the week, children have learnt about the role that STEM subjects play in a range of careers as well as our everyday lives and we thank Mr Taylor for sharing his experience with us.

Ms Marike Van Ron and her colleague, Chris, transformed Classroom 5 into a high tech laboratory much to the delight of Years 4 and 5. Both classes had great fun wearing a lab coat to carry out two different science experiments. After an introductory presentation on proteins, the children tested for the enzyme amylase in saliva and also used the separation technique chromatography. The children enjoyed being scientists for an afternoon and we are grateful to Ms Van Ron and her company for enabling two of our classes to have access to this great experience.

Mr Andrew Farrimond visited school today, in his pyjamas, to talk to both Years 4 and 6. Year 4 enjoyed a presentation on the development of the Thames sewage system which will support their future work in class on water and sewage treatments systems. They really enjoyed the video clips - particularly the footage of "an exploding sewer!" Mr Farrimond then worked with Class 6 to talk about the career opportunities available through STEM. Lots of children have demonstrated an interest in the activities during the week and it was really helpful to have these skills linked to future careers and the world of work by Mr Farrimond - thank you.

Police Visit to Reception Class

There was much excitement in Reception Class when Buddy, the police dog, visited with Police Officers Phil and Mark this week. They told us all about the role of a police officer in keeping us safe and then Buddy demonstrated how he uses his sense of smell to find things. Reception Class loved trying on the handcuffs; watching Buddy search the classroom and then having the chance to find out about the role of a police officer. Many thanks to Mr Darts and his colleague for giving up their time to come into school to support our learning.

Year 6 Visit to Bletchley Park

Last Friday, Year 6 walked in the footsteps of the Bletchley Park Codebreakers. To support their Home Front topic, they learnt about the secret work that was carried out to crack the German Codes and ultimately support the Allies victory in World War 2. A guided tour of the Park, visit to the exhibitions and code-breaking workshop were included to give them just a sample of what was on offer at this fascinating site of historical significance. We are really grateful to Mrs Shave and Mr Drake who kindly accompanied Mrs Starbuck, Mrs Balchin and Mrs Heath.



Year 6 Dodgeball Tournament

Year 6 played in the Dodgeball Tournament on Wednesday 13th November at JFAN. We had four teams and they all played tremendously well demonstrating excellent skills, great teamwork and considerable stamina! While everyone played really well, two of our teams won their pools which meant that we are able to send a team to the finals next week. To decide who to send, there was a closely fought play off back at school on Thursday and the winners of that are looking forward to some more high energy play on the 20th November. We wish them all the very best!



Year 5 Archery Event

Year 5 had a fantastic, fun-filled morning practising their archery skills on Thursday alongside other local schools. The class showed great enthusiasm and managed to hit some high scores! Well done Class 5.

Children in Need Day

Many thanks to everyone in school for supporting our School Council in raising funds for Children in Need today by wearing their pyjamas to school. We are delighted to share that we have managed to raise £311.30 for this very worthwhile charity.

Nature Space News

Year 2 used the nature space to investigate shapes and work on their greater than and less than symbols.



Last Friday, Year 4 used the nature space to support their new Science topic - Living Things and their Habitats. They looked at different habitats and identified which animals might be found there. They also considered which habitats were natural and which were man made.



The Royal British Legion

Thank you to everyone who bought poppies and made donations in support of the Royal British legion. We have just been notified that the school collection tin raised a magnificent £361.30 - well done everyone!

Primary School Admissions for 2020

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opens on 11th November 2019, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2020. The statutory national closing date for applications is 15 January 2020. From 11 November 2019, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
22nd November	Friends' Winter Party
25th November	Open morning - focus 'our values'
7th December	Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6
10th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance
11th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances
12th December	Flu immunisations
13th December	Friends' KS1 Christmas Disco Friends' KS2 Christmas Disco
17th December	Christmas lunch Christmas parties
19th December	Christmas Church Service at All Saints' Church, 9.30am Last day of term
6th January	Non-pupil day
7th January	Pupils return to school