

# Headteacher's Blog

**Friday 11h March 2022.**

**STEM/ British Science Week 6 page Special issue**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I hope this HT Blog finds you all keeping well. A great week of inspirational education has been in place once again this week and lots more photos can be found on the class pages and whole school photo gallery of our school website. Parents meetings will be next week and teaching staff are looking forward to speak to you then. As always, please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any queries, concerns or suggestions. So that you all feel that you know the whole of our teaching staff team I will continue to be on Gate Duty most mornings ( replaced by Mr Charlton if I am unavailable) and there is now a rota of teaching staff on Gate Duty at the end of the day so please do not hesitate to come forward for a chat during these times

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



## Eco Schools

We mentioned last term how we were looking to further develop ways in which our exciting, inspirational and innovative curriculum can be even better and that we are in the process of our school being recognised for this. Mrs Marsden as Science and STEM co-ordinator is leading on the Eco Schools Award.

### What is Eco-Schools?

We are a charity passionate about engaging young people in environmental education and action. We do this by providing a simple, seven-step framework that guides, empowers and motivates pupils to drive change and improve environmental awareness in their school, local community and beyond.

After completing the seven step process, we will then apply for Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation, which recognises, rewards and celebrates the environmental achievements of young people.

Eco-Schools was founded in 1994, operates in 70 countries and engages 19.5 million young people globally. This makes Eco-Schools the largest educational programme on the planet.

<https://youtu.be/UtctCyPLKIM>

We will be looking at asking interested children to join our Eco Council and further information will be shared shortly.

## British Science Week

British Science Week starts today. Don't forget that our Design a Lab Coat Competition closes on Thursday 17th March. We will be doing this in school but entries from home will also be welcomed.

## STEM Robotics Workshop

Thanks to Ian from STEM Robotics who delivered an excellent series of workshops in school this week. The children's enthusiasm and participation was amazing to see. Here are some photos. More can be found on our Whole School Gallery. Facebook or Twitter pages. Thank you to Christine Young, our STEM Governor and Susie Hardie, our Mental Health and Wellbeing Governor who joined in.



## Attendance

The class with the highest attendance last week was Class 1 ( Year 1 and 2) with 100% attendance until registers closed last Thursday. Well done to them

## Outdoor reading area - Update

Before we develop a new library space we have cushions and some decorations waterproof picnic blankets for example would be gratefully received.

## Well Done!

Our Year 5/6 team resumed the season with another impressive win!

## Reminders

The dates for this half term are all on our school website calendar which can be found - <https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>



# What job could I do?

Not all jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) mean you will wear a white lab coat. See if you can work out what these STEM Ambassadors do:

## What type of **scientist** am I?

I collect, record and study information.

I look at **cells**, fertilise eggs and more.

I write articles for magazines and books.

I protect animal habitats.

I support animal rights.



Zoologist

## What type of **technologist** am I?

I use 2D or 3D modelling and animation software.

I create character voices, music and sound effects.

I turn designs, ideas and drawings into playable games.

I write code to create interactive visuals and sound.

I write scripts and create storyboards.



## What type of **engineer** am I?

I solve problems.

I find the best ways to create new things.

I work with materials like wood and metal.

I create beautiful, useful and sometimes cool structures.

I design and build spaces for people to work, study and live in.



Civil Engineer

## What type of **mathematician** am I?

I have a good eye for detail.

I am good at spotting patterns in data.

I advise on how to save and spend money.

I study and keep track of financial information.

I use a calculator and spreadsheets to calculate taxes.



Accountant

## Who would you like to meet?

Request a STEM Ambassador at [stem.org.uk/primary-stem-ambassadors](https://stem.org.uk/primary-stem-ambassadors)



# STEM CHALLENGES

## Marshmallow and Toothpick Tower

How high can you go!

Using 100 marshmallows build the tallest tower possible!

**Supplies:** Mini Marshmallows, toothpicks, and measuring tape

**Tips:** Have kids count out 100 marshmallows. Draw out a plan to get started.

## Egg Drop Challenge

Protect a raw egg from harm! Using a variety of materials or supplies on hand, design, build, and test a contraption that will protect an egg from breaking when dropped from a specific height

**Supplies:** Raw Eggs, recycle bin items, and any other simple supplies on hand like bubble wrap, tissue paper, or straws.

**Tips:** Start by choosing a specific height to drop the egg from and use the same height each time. To reduce mess, incorporate zip top bags into the design process.

## Catapult Design Challenge

How far can you launch something with a homemade popsicle stick catapult. Which items fly the farthest? Plan, design, and build a working catapult.

**Supplies:** Popsicle sticks, rubber bands, bottle cap, glue or sticky dots, spoons, tubes, items to launch.

**Hint:** Use our easy [popsicle stick catapult design](#) or let the kids get creative with [LEGO](#), [pencils](#), [spoons and cardboard tubes](#)!

# STEM CHALLENGES

## Build An Unsinkable Boat

Build a boat that floats and can't be sunk! Using recycled items and supplies from around the house or classroom, build boats that will float in a tub of water. Take it a step further and build a boat that will hold a specific object such as a soup can

**Supplies:** Tub with water, supplies to build boats, items to test flotation

**Tips:** Make sure to choose an item to test flotation that you have enough of or that all weigh the same and are the same size! Think rolls of pennies, soup cans, large wooden blocks, small wooden cubes, etc.

**Hint:** You can also challenge kids to build tin foil boats with only a 12" square of aluminum foil!

## Build A Paper Bridge

Span that gap with a bridge building challenge! Set up two stacks of books and challenge the kids to build a bridge that spans the gap out of paper! Test the bridge with the weight of pennies!

**Supplies:** Computer paper (dig out the recycling bin), tape, pennies, and two stacks of books the same height..

**Tips:** Create a gap using two stacks of books that the bridge will need to span. Test the strength of the paper bridges by adding pennies to it. You can also compare other bridge building materials such as tin foil, wax paper, construction paper, or card stock!

# STEM Steps To Success



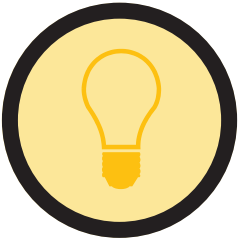
## **OBSERVE/ ASK**

- What is the problem?
- How have others solved the problem?
- What are the limitations/guidelines?
- Who can help me solve this problem?



## **COLLECT**

- What information will I need to solve this problem?
- What resources do I have/need to solve this problem?



## **IMAGINE**

- How can I solve the problem?
- Have I found an "out of the box" solution?
- Do I have more than one solution?



## **PLAN**

- What materials do I have/need?
- What steps will I take to solve the problem?
- What could go wrong?



## **CREATE**

- I will test my plan!
- I will take notes of my process/observations!
- I will draw/take pictures as I work, for reference later!



## **IMPROVE**

- I will reflect on my design
- What changes can I make to improve my plan/solution?
- What does my data tell me about my first attempt?
- I create another plan and retest!

**#LET  
GiRLS  
PLAY**

**Took part in the**

**BIGGEST  
EVER  
FOOTBALL SESSION**



**Thank you for taking part and helping to give girls equal access  
to football in school**

**Kelly Smith MBE**  
**Former England International & Barclays Ambassador**