Cheshire & Wirral SCIENCE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Welcome to the Cheshire & Wirral SLP Newsletter

December 2022 Issue

The end of term is in sight – and that can only mean one thing: the approach of the festive season and increased excitement amongst pupils. With this in mind, here are some collated festive science activities and interesting articles. Enjoy the festive break; we look forward to working with you in 2023!

Sarah Longshaw
SLP Lead

Activities & articles

From Science Sparks Lots of easily adaptable ideas that can be linked to the curriculum and used at other times, and featuring simple, cheap and easy to obtain equipment.

Or from Dr Jo's resource shop – don't be put off, these are also free to download.

STEM Learning has also collated a collection here so there's bound to be something for everyone.

Since this is the time of year for goodwill to all and sharing, please also pass these to any of your computing colleagues looking for festive computing activities too.

Don't forget to check out the STEM Community too – for more ideas and remote networking.

This padlet is regularly updated and has ideas that may be relevant for particular times of year and is a treasure trove of CPD ideas, newsletters, resources and more.

Topical science updates (information, in a child friendly format, about the latest science related events) are also available each month on MyScienceClub website.

Although the weather may not always be the most amenable, getting out and enjoying the natural world is proven to be good for mental health. Plus, there's something magical about the sight of frosted structures such as spiders' webs and plant skeletons and who doesn't love kicking through the leaves? This link will take you to some suggestions for children's books about seeds and plants, 20 in total, covering different topics and for varying ages.

Still on the plant theme, this great practical activity (from CIEC) for upper key stage 2 pupils, looks at turning potatoes into plastic.

The Explorify website includes activities about plants (as well as many different curriculum topics) – a good starting point, particularly if you haven't used it before is is the 'What's new?' section.

The following piece by Alom Shaha, who discusses his daughter starting reception and her potential career preferences is an interesting read. It looks at the importance of pupils having access role models and opportunities to increase their science capital and the importance of books to help those who lack the confidence in subjects such as science.

Another interesting read (not specific to primary) from Hannah Fry tackles the problem of why girls don't like maths and offers some suggestions to address this.

One solution is good careers resources such as these shared by Dr Jo, many of which are suitable for primary pupils and again, there's lots of variety and plenty of choice. Meanwhile for more diverse representations in Science, try Kathryn Horan's Inspiring Stories and book recommendations.

And don't be concerned that primary is too early – the author of this article looks at how smashing stereotypes at primary can benefit secondary science teachers.

Upcoming CPD

Spring Term 2023

Outdoor Learning
18 January - twilight - remotely delivered
Outdoor learning has a part to play in our everyday teaching, this course will cover how we make the activities meaningful and link to the national curriculum.

Preparing for Science Week
31 January – twilight - remotely delivered.
A session to promote and allow discussion of planning for science week. Discuss the importance of engagement in science and how to enhance this within your setting.

Assessment & progression in Primary Science
2 February - afternoon - Winsford Academy.
Throughout the course we will identify how you can integrate and embed assessment practices into your science teaching.

Science through stories
16 February - twilight – remotely delivered.
Explore the science hidden in a book and incorporate science into your literacy lessons, stimulating further interest in the subject. You will walk away with engaging and practical ways to teach science through the use of stories.

Developing your primary science using the Ofsted framework
2 & 16 March - afternoons - remotely delivered.
Discuss key strategies to ensure that the intent, implementation and impact of your science curriculum is evident throughout school.

As always, full details of our CPD can be found on our website.

Primary Networks 22-23 & Bespoke Support

If you are interested in joining one of our networks – please get in touch slp@eatonbank.org so that we can provide details of the most appropriate. In addition to our scheduled programme, we can offer bespoke support – including whole staff CPD ideal for INSET or one to one sessions, most usually working with the primary science lead. If there are specific requests or you'd like to find out more about what we do and how we can support you with science, then please just drop us an email.

To contact us please email slp@eatonbank.org or check out our website

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Science Learning Partnerships

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