



St John's Science Snippets

February Newsletter Issue 17 2024

Science news at St John's

This term has been packed with science learning both in the classroom and through enrichment opportunities. Cosmic Kelsey has led some fabulous fun **FIZZ POP science club** sessions.



The children have made marble runs, explored slime, created straw rockets and been detectives.



Health Environment Healthy Me for KS 1

We have helped the school environment by doing a litter pick; helped the birds by making pine cone bird feeders; helped ourselves by assembling a delicious healthy fruit salad.

Year 4 Wally Hall CSI Forensic Workshop



What fun learning we had investigating a crime scene, using chromatography, soil samples, coffee and hair analysis. Great skills learnt!

Year 3 ROCK DETECTIVES by Geobus

Year 3 donned their 3-D glasses to investigate different rock types as part of their learning.

Year 5 SPACE TALK

Year 5 participated in a space workshop learning all about satellites and how they are used to clear up space junk.

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Looking for something to do over the February Half Term?

Here are a few ideas:



February Heart Trail

Saturday 10 February 2024 - Sunday 18 February 2024

Location: Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve and Jeffery Harrison Visitor Centre, Sevenoaks, Kent

AGE 5-7 PLANT POWER

In this outdoor activity, prompt the children to take a small flowering plant (ideally from the school grounds) and pull it carefully apart, observing the different parts closely and laying them out on a piece of paper. Then challenge them to put the parts back together, and to discuss what they are called and whether the parts look the same from plant to plant.

Challenge the children to model their own version of the plant using playdough. Encourage them to focus on the different parts they observed in the real plant. The children could:

- make a 2D or a 3D model and label the basic features of their plant
- discuss features of their plant with their partner and identify similarities and differences between the two plants
- use what they have learnt to examine trees and identify their basic structure and features

Resources per child

- 1 ball of playdough
- A small plant e.g. dandelion or other weed
- OPTIONAL – hand lens

Science explored

- Plants
- Observing closely

Interesting links

- [Healthy plant growth film clip](#)
- [Bursting with Life activity](#)



Under the Microscope



Can you guess what this is?
Come and tell me what you think

Resources per child

- One piece of foil
- Plastic ruler
- School sweatshirt or fleece (or any fabric containing some polyester)

Science explored

- Static electricity
- Properties of materials

Interesting links

- [Bend water with static electricity](#)
- [All about lightning](#)

AGE 9-11 JUMPING FISH

Start by getting the children to cut lots of little fish shapes out of their foil. Challenge them to make the foil fish 'jump' to their ruler. Tell them to rub their ruler on their sweatshirt for around a minute and then hover it over the fish. Some of the fish should 'jump' to the ruler. Challenge the children to explore this further and explain what they think is happening.

They could explore:

- fish made of different materials, e.g. paper, tissue paper
- different sizes of fish
- rubbing the ruler for different amounts of time
- if the fish also 'jump' to other materials
- how long the fish stay 'stuck' to the ruler or other materials
- if the fish will 'jump' from the ruler to the sweatshirt or vice versa
- how to get the biggest number of fish to 'jump' to the ruler

Always ask an adult first!

Coming UP.....

Sevenoaks Science Week Shows for several classes. (See letter)

St John's STEM Day – "TIME"
Thursday 14th March 2024

I'm always excited to hear about free educational trips for children and love to see what science the children have been doing. Please share with me.

Mrs Casewell