

Term 4 Science NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second edition of our Science Newsletter!

Thank you to all the children who entered our 'Design a Space Hotel' competition. Although we did not have many entries, the caliber of work was exceptional and it was difficult to choose a winner. But we did. On this occasion, all entries received a prize but an overall winner from KS1 and also one from KS2 was selected. This newsletter launches our next competition (more about that below).

Thank you also to the parents who have got in touch regarding STEM jobs. We are looking forward to working with you and are still on the look out for more STEM links within our school community.

From Mrs Jackson

Well Done!

Well done to **Thomas** (Year 1) and **Maia** (Year 6) for their winning Space Hotel entries. Thomas spent many hours designing a space hotel in Minecraft and videoed himself explaining all the different areas. Maia took a very unique take on the task and presented her ideas within an informative but fun board game.



An Outstanding Result!

On Tuesday, March 11th, Niamh, Mabel, Noah and Albie (all in Year 5) represented our school at a Science and Engineering Challenge Day.

The team were given practical challenges during the morning and were later tested on their knowledge in a quiz. The day finished with a science show.

The team did exceptionally well, coming 2nd place overall! Each received a certificate and voucher. £100 was won for the school too, which will be put to good use! Well done, team!



Competition Time

Inventors' Showcase

Challenge: Design and make a model or create a drawing of an invention that solves a real-world problem (e.g. homework helper, litter collector, noise-cancelling chair).

You **must** include a written or recorded "pitch" for your invention.

Recorded "pitches" should be sent into the office, who will then forward them to Mrs Jackson.

Judged On: Creativity, usefulness, presentation, sustainability.

Deadline: All entries must be received by Mrs Jackson by

Friday 2nd May 2025



Spotlight on a Scientist

George Washington Carver

Born: January 1864

Died: January 1943

Occupation: Agricultural chemist, agricultural scientist, educator

George Washington Carver was a scientist and inventor. He was best known for discovering 100 uses for peanuts, but this was only the tip of the iceberg in his remarkable life.

Born into slavery during the American Civil War, Carver overcame great challenges to become one of the most respected scientists of his time. He studied plants and soils, helping farmers improve their crops and grow food more successfully. Carver believed science could be used to make life better for everyone. At the Tuskegee Institute, where he taught for many years, he researched ways to use crops like sweet potatoes, peanuts, and soybeans to make everyday items—such as paint, paper, glue, and rubber. Carver was admired not only for his brilliant mind but also for his generosity and peaceful nature. He turned down offers to become wealthy, choosing instead to help others. His work changed farming forever and inspired people around the world.

Class Highlights



Year 3: Year 3 has been busy learning all about the fascinating properties of rocks and soils. They kicked off their study with a fun rock investigation around the school, discovering the different types of rocks found in our very own playground! As part of their learning, they explored how different rocks are formed and what makes them unique. From igneous to sedimentary and metamorphic, they've gained a deeper understanding of how rocks change over time. To make their learning even more special, they had a visit from a tree surgeon, who shared valuable insights into the important role rocks and soil play in supporting plant and tree life. They learned how healthy soil and rocks are essential for trees to grow strong and tall.

Year 5: The children have now completed their work on forces, having explored simple mechanisms (pulleys, levers and gears) that make work easier or change the direction of a force needed. A visit to the Discovery Planet gave them a fun opportunity to explore this further through making a complicated Rube Goldberg style machine (that doesn't make a simple action easier) to lift a bag from the table.

Year 6 finished their unit on the heart with a fabulous, informative afternoon with Mr Castro, one of our very own parents, who volunteered to talk to the class about his work in the NHS as a cardiac scientist and what it is like to work in healthcare.

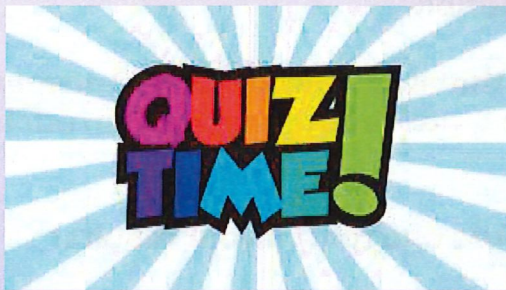
Woody's Visit to The Institute of Making



Off the back of winning the Big STEM Challenge with his *Beach Buddy* idea to help tackle plastic pollution, Woody was invited to visit *The Institute of Making* at University College London on Friday 21st March.

A highlight of the visit was meeting **Professor Mark Miodownik**, a leading materials scientist and engineer, well known for his work in sustainability and science communication. Professor Miodownik founded the Plastic Waste Innovation Hub and regularly appears on TV and radio to promote science and engineering careers. He gave Woody a personal tour of the workshop and spoke to him about fascinating topics including atoms, 3D-printing, re-using plastic, and climate change.

It was a valuable opportunity to learn more about real-world STEM careers and the innovative work being done to create a more sustainable future.



(answers at the bottom)

- 1) What kind of blood cells fight infection?
- 2) What planet is known as the Red Planet?
- 3) How much of the Earth is covered in water?
- 4) What force keeps us on the ground?
- 5) What are animals that eat only plants called?
- 6) What do we call the change from a liquid to a gas?

Parents in STEM

We are eager to create a network of parents who can help enrich our STEM subjects in school! ✨

If you work in a STEM-related field—such as engineering, medicine, IT, research, architecture, or beyond—and would be happy to share your expertise, we'd love to hear from you!

Opportunities to get involved could include:

- 📄 Short talks about your job and the exciting world of STEM
- 💡 Q&A sessions where students can ask about your work
- 🔧 Interactive demonstrations to bring STEM to life

If you'd be willing to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators, please get in touch with Mrs. Jackson. Your involvement could make a real difference! 🚀 🔍 ✨

Science Ambassadors 2024–2025

Year 1: Willow

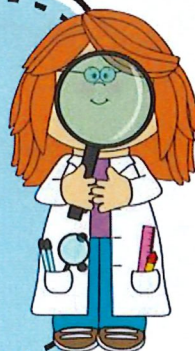
Year 2: Kitty, Isabelle, Samuel, Verity

Year 3: George, Sadie

Year 4: Finlay H, Elina

Year 5: Jasper, Sophie, Elsie, Dylan

Year 6: Maia, Alex, Emma, Sophie



- Quiz answers**
- 1) White blood cells
 - 2) Mars
 - 3) 71%
 - 4) Gravity
 - 5) Herbivores
 - 6) Evaporation

DO try this at home

Moving Water Experiment

Aim: To investigate the movement of water using paper towels

- a measuring cup
- 4 x pieces of paper towel
- red, blue and yellow food dye
- 5 x clear drinking cups/glasses (jars work well too!)
- water – enough to pour equal amounts into 3 of the cups
- 3 x mixing spoons

1. Line up 5 cups. Fill cup number 1, 3 and 5 with equal amounts of water. (200ml of water per cup perhaps, but this will depend on the size of your cups.)

2. Place equal drops of food dye into each cup of water – place blue into one cup, red into another, and yellow into the final cup. Mix each cup thoroughly with a new spoon to prevent cross-contamination.

3. Place a scrunched piece of paper towel so that it creates a bridge between each cup in the line. The paper towel must be quite deep in the water in each cup.

4. Watch what happens over the next few hours and record your results!



Possible questions you could try to answer:

- 1. What will the food dye from one cup do when it mixes with the dye from another cup?**
- 2. Why do you think the water didn't move backward once the empty cups started to fill up?**
- 3. Why do you think the water stopped moving once the cups levelled out?**