

Spring Term Science Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the science newsletter. Each one will feature a scientist, a science skill that we teach in school, a science challenge, top tips for helping your child with science at home and some science books or websites for you to enjoy with your child. There will be a different focus each time. Please ask your child to let me know if they would like a particular focus for one of the newsletters. It would be wonderful if you could share what you do and we can add it to our newsletter next time. Thank you, Mrs Banham



Which image do you think is the odd one out?

Remember: There is no wrong or right answer you just need to explain your thoughts, reasons and ideas



Scientist - Beatrix Potter 1866-1943

You might recognise the name Beatrix Potter from her stories about Peter Rabbit and the other fictional animal characters. In fact she was the first British scientist to actually discover that the lichen, which you often see on trees in our churchyard, was actually made up of two organisms a fungi and an algae.

It was because Beatrix Potter was not accepted as a Scientist due to her being a woman that she started to concentrate on her drawing, writing and creating books instead.



Science book/website recommendations

http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activitymenu/?cat=plant_id

If you want to learn more about plants and fungi that grow in the UK or go on a Spring spotter hunt click on the link above.



Science challenges- paper flowers

You will need: different kinds of paper and card
scissors
bowl or shallow plate of water
paper and pencil to sketch what you see

What to do:

1. Draw and cut out some paper flower shapes.
2. Gently fold each petal into the centre so they overlap, and float the flower in the bowl of water.

What happens!

3. Experiment to find out what happens with different sizes, shapes of flower and types of paper or card.

Can you time how long different flowers take to open?

Science skill: Observations-What do you observe?

Why do you think the paper flowers open when you put them into water?

What happens when you use thicker or thinner paper, or with different sized flowers?

Does it still work if you use a different liquid like milk or cooking oil?



Science challenges- paper flowers

What is the science behind this?

Paper is made of lots of fibres. The spaces between the fibres can absorb water and when this happens, the paper expands which is why the flower opens up. The fibres and the sizes of the space between them vary from paper to paper which is why some flowers open faster than others. When water flows into narrow spaces in this way, often against gravity, it is called capillary action. Another example of capillary action is water moving through the roots of a plant and into the stem and leaves.

To help your child at home, you could try some of these top tips:

- When you are out walking see how many different plants you can spot, learn the name of one of them.
- When your child can recognise and remember its name on future walks, add another plant to your recognition and naming list.

You will be amazed how quickly you can name and recognise lots of trees, plants and flowers in our village.

TopTip

IMPORTANT NOTICE: These activities are designed to be carried out by children working with a parent, guardian or other appropriate adult. The adult involved is fully responsible for ensuring that the activities are carried out safely.