

Rolls-Royce Science Prize Finalists 2017-18

Boston West Academy

February Diary

Our project is about 'Establishing Firm Scientific Foundations in Foundation Stage'. An explicit focus on Science will not only improve children's engagement with the subject and promote an enthusiasm for it, but will be the tool to impact on Communication and Language too. Children and parents will work together to see how Science is relevant in their everyday lives, promoting an enthusiasm for the subject both at home and at school, ultimately setting them off on a scientific journey that lasts beyond their first years at school.

Amanda Pickwell

This month we had planned to hold our parent afternoon by now before we broke up for half term. Due to time constraints on the hall space, this was not possible. The date has however now been rearranged to Wednesday March 7th and the letters have gone out to parents with already a pleasing number of reply slips back in. The activities will be finalised next week (after half term) once we have an estimate of numbers and resource packs will be made so that we can hand them out to parents during the afternoon. The packs will include simple step-by-step investigations to try at home as well as ideas for extending these further. Key questions for parents to use as well as some simple scientific vocabulary will be included, as well as a prompt for 'what kind of job might use science like this?'. All children will receive a child magnifier, with parents asked to encourage children to hold it, look, and talk about what they can see. The packs are in their early stages but will be finalised next week to tie in with the final activity list.

Year one classes have really taken the ideas on board that have been shared with them. It has been great to see the engagement of children in Year One testing and making their own design of a raft for the gingerbread man, as well as investigating and designing their own strong structures for a house belonging to the three little pigs. Staff in both Year One and Foundation Stage have developed in confidence to allow a greater child led investigation approach. This has engaged children with the subject of science and created many opportunities for discussion, positively impacting on both the profile of Science and children's communication skills.

Becky Storey

This month we have been finalising the details of the parent afternoon. As a parent myself I have been able to look at it from a parents perspective to ensure we get the timings and organisation of the afternoon right to encourage maximum attendance. I am overseeing the wording of the resources that will be given to parents in their pack to ensure that the ideas are simple and clear to understand without too much 'teacher talk'. As a parent I am also an ambassador for the afternoon and have been able to talk to other parents about it and encourage them to attend.

At home we have followed up some learning in school with 'O' being particularly keen to make and observe his own ice window in the garden. We had lots of fun and 'O' enjoyed describing what was happening as it began to melt.

Jade Brockington

This month there continues to be lots of Science going on in the Foundation Stage classes! We have made our own lava lamps whilst learning about Diwali and enjoyed making 'magic milk'. The children are enthusiastic about their investigations and always have many ideas about how they want to develop it further. This always creates lots of discussion about what they can see happening, why they think that, and what they want to try next.

I have been working on the experiments that will be included in the parent afternoon, ensuring that lots are ones that we have done in class so that children can be the experts and share their learning with their parents. There will also be some new ones to try out too. As a team we will confirm the final list and ensure that we shop for enough consumables for the big day!

Emma Schofield

This month I have been working on some of the activities for the Science afternoon as well as some ideas for parents to try out at home too as part of the pack that we will give them. My activities have an outdoor theme to fit in with our strong outdoor learning ethos at Boston West. Science surrounds us outdoors so my aim is to encourage parents to utilise it as a fun, hands on, learning opportunity with their children.

This month I am also taking the good practise from Boston West to share with and support another local school in their journey to developing Science outdoors.



Expenses Update

Total Awarded: £6000

Date	Purchases	Cost
Money spent to date		£1179.63
Class Weather Calendars	Two wall hanging calendars at £28.81 each	£57.62
Rain Gauges	Two rain gauges at £4.54 each	£9.08
Giant Model Teeth	Large demonstration teeth model	£14.01
Consumables	Dinosaur eggs £10, Ice cubes £11.20,	£21.20
Items for parent afternoon	Plastic Wallets (60 for £34.20) 60 magnifying glasses for packs £34.62	£68.82
STEM kits for Science areas	Force and motion/ Simple Machines/ Engineering and Design £17.10 each	£51.30
Total Expenses		£272.49
Total Expenses to date		£1,452.12
Remaining Money		£4547.88