



ST NORBERT'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

20th January 2017

ARTICLE 12: You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.



United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

This week's newsletter is a 'STEAM Special!'

Wow! Science invasion at St Norbert's Primary School! On Tuesday 17th January the whole of St Norbert's Primary school shared in a massive STEAM Challenge day. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics.

The day consisted of each class being set a Movie challenge to help the characters in their specific film. For example, the Year 6 children were challenged with 'The Angry Birds' Movie, which required them to help Chuck, Big Red and Bomb (Characters from the Movie) save the eggs. As part of the day the children across the school were challenged to use their communication skills to discuss a range of problems they had been given, in order to solve and help the characters in their movie.

It was an amazing day of problem solving discussion with a great deal of cross curricular skills being applied in order to overcome the challenges!



EYFS

During STEM Day in EYFS children developed their cutting, joining, team work and investigation skills throughout the day. They used pegs and lollypop sticks to build structures and midget gems and cocktail sticks to make

houses. Children cut and joined their puppets to lolly pop sticks to re-tell the story of the three little pigs.

Our main challenge was to design and build a house strong enough to withstand the huff and puff of the big bad wolf! Children worked together in groups to join using sellotape, string, pipe cleaners and glue to create the walls and roof of their house, Our big bad wolf (a hairdryer dressed as a wolf) came along and huffed and puffed. Most of our structures were strong enough to withstand the blow but the houses that did not use sellotape seemed to blow down. A real fun and investigative day had by all



Year 1

Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic day investigating different materials. Using the story of the three little pigs as a basis, the children worked in groups to design and make a chair that would hold the weight of a stuffed toy pig using only paper and sellotape. After they thought about how to join materials such as lollysticks and art straws in order to make a structure that would withstand the fierce **wolf's huff and puff!** The children worked incredibly hard designing, investigating and re-building using a combinations of 3D shapes in order to develop their structure's strength. They also learned some key skills in working as a team, listening to one another's ideas, as well talking through different strategies in order to persevere when construction did not always go as planned.

Year 2

Year 2 STEAM focus was based on the story Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers. We had to build a boat that could float and was waterproof to take the boy and the penguin back to the South Pole. The only materials we could use were one paper plate, one paper bowl, paper, tin foil, cling film and sellotape. All of our boats floated but some got really soggy so would not have lasted the journey. We had a really exciting day and learnt a lot about how we can combine and join materials as well as how to work together as a team.

Year 3

In Year 3 we were set the challenge of helping Raoul save the Monster of Paris by creating a strong, tall structure similar to the Eiffel Tower. The children were given discussion time to talk through their ideas, share their opinions and plan their actions towards solving the problem. We began the day building a Midget Gem Tower using our engineering skills. The midget gems were joined in the structure by cocktail sticks which enabled the young Year 3 engineers to create some very interesting structures, however, they only had 20 midget gems and 20 cocktail sticks, so their discussion and design were extremely important.

Following the challenges set in building a tower out of cocktail sticks, the children were set their main challenge of designing and making a tall structure using a range of materials which they were required to investigate in order to find the strongest. They tried different materials, they tried strengthening materials and they tried joining materials to increase strength. Having carried out their investigations, they moved onto constructing their tallest towers. Each tower was unique and demonstrated a clear understanding of how materials respond to strengthening and jointing techniques.

Overall, the Year 3 children thoroughly enjoyed their day, stating that they felt that they had



played all day...although, reflecting on the skills of investigation, measuring, testing, listening, communicating and working together to plan, they were surprised with how much learning they had actually taken part in!

Year 4

During our STEM Day, Year 4 were inspired by scenes from the film Up to explore different forces and motions! We began our day with a design activity. We created cars using only clothes pegs, string, elastic bands, circular wheels. We tested our cars to see which one travelled the farthest by placing them on ramps of different angles and materials. Some materials created more friction than others. Our furthest car travelled an incredible 4.25m!

We developed our investigation by exploring different ways in which we could make our cars move. Using themes from the film, we focussed on how air can be used as a force. We created a number of different designs, using air in different ways including balloons, sails and zipwires! Throughout the day, we came across a range of challenges to tackle and the pupils did so with perseverance and determination. They showed incredible imagination, excellent teamwork skills and great fun was had by all!



Year 5 are Inside Out!

In Year 5, we have been developing our STEAM skills while being inspired by the film Inside Out. We used the scene where the memory orbs have been changed by sadness and the other happier memories are in danger. Our challenge was to design an memory orb marble run on a paper plate that will run at the slowest speed from start to finish. This drew upon our knowledge of angles, design, materials and friction forces in science. There were rules to our designing process; we had to work collaboratively at all times, and we were not allowed to touch the paper plates with our hands to move the marble around. This posed a whole new facet our challenge and design

process of imagine, plan, create and evaluate. We finally put our marble runs to the test and timed each group's creation with a stop watch and an official observer to ensure greater accuracy and fairness.

We had a great day challenging ourselves to improve our skills and designs and most importantly that learning from mistakes was a real positive that improved our creations in the long run!

Year 6 - in their own words.

Molly Hallissey and Dziuljeta Driskuta in Year 6 have explained what they were busy doing for the BLP day :)

During our BLP day, a small group of ten children went to create bird feeders for the outdoor learning area. Using a recipe of lard, cheese and raisins we made a mixture to feed the birds during winter. We cut a small slit into a cup and tied it up with string so it could be hung on branches. After spooning the mixture into the cup, we walked down to the outdoor learning area and hung up our bird food. After that, we went bird watching in the outdoor area and tally marked any species of bird we found. In complete silence, we hid in the gazebo and the bird hide waiting to see if anything came into sight. We saw feral pigeons, great tits, robins, blackbirds and seagulls. I even saw a squirrel! Later on, back in class, we drew bar graphs, representing how many of each different species we found. **Molly**

To start off the BLP Day year 6 were challenged by Mrs Withers to create a firm structure to protect raw eggs from breaking when dropped from a height of four metres, we were provided with materials such as cardboard boxes, black bin bags, ordinary bags, balloons and tape. We discovered that the egg contained a liquid inside and that eggs are coated by a thin layer of an egg shell. The egg is a delicate material and this is why we used different materials to



insulate and keep the egg safe before rolling it down the stairs. Mrs. Withers used the same amount of pressure to roll each construction down the staircase, therefore making this a fair test. **Dziuljeta.**

Special Mention:

We are proud to celebrate Liga Poca in Year 5 who has been awarded

'Dancer of the Year' from her dance studio that she attends outside of school.

Congratulations Liga, a super achievement that really recognises your passion and talent in dance. Well done from the staff and children of Saint Norbert's.



Research Cafe

Our next Research Café is in the school hall on Wednesday, February 22nd from 2pm to 3:15pm. It will be all about 'Teaching for Mastery' and we would love to see as many parents there as possible to find out what this approach is all about and why we are all so enthusiastic about it. As always, you will be very warmly welcomed and refreshments will be served.

School Attendance

Regular school attendance is a priority for your child and our school. There is a very strong link between regular school attendance and achievement and if your child is frequently absent from school they are much less likely to reach age related expectations. Remember 90% attendance sounds good if it is in a test but 90% attendance throughout your child's school career means over one year's absence! Whilst we strive to achieve 100% attendance our school target is 97%. Therefore we expect attendance for all our pupils by the end of the academic year to be 97% and above. To improve attendance we have to work together. If something is stopping your child coming to school, please come and talk to us about it.

Exciting news!

We are very pleased to announce that two members of St Norbert's staff are expecting summer babies: Miss Whyles, Year 5 classteacher due in July and Miss Hayley-Pettit, lunchtime supervisor, due in June. We wish both mums-to-be every blessing as they await the happy day!

Pupils of the Week



Reception - Raziel Aquino for excellent blending skills to read decodable words.

Year 1 - Sandra Krzus for working hard at home and at school to improve her reading.

Year 2 - Gabija Kubekaite for applying her knowledge in Maths to find a fraction of a number.

Year 3 - Ida Krzeminska for her perseverance and determination to overcome the challenge of subordinate clauses!

Year 4 - Emilija Praneviciute for achieving 10 out of 10 consistently in her weekly spellings test.

Year 5 - Ellie Wilton for dedicated work and lovely manners.

Year 6 - Codie McCall for excellent engineering ideas during our STEAM BLP day and working well with a team to create a product.

Attendance

Week commencing: January 9th						
Rec 91.52%	Yr1 98.49%	Yr2 93.69%	Yr3 96.1%	Yr4 91.21%	Yr5 94.56%	Yr6 96.36%

Congratulations go to Year 1 this week for the best attendance.



Rewards-House Points

1 st	1 st	3 rd	4 th
208 points St Lucy	202 points St Dominic	149 points St Francis	127 points St Bernadette

Well done St. House. You are the winning house this week.

English Challenge Corner



WW2 Book illustration

When is the story set? Talk with someone from home.

Rhinoceros words. Make a list of everything you can see in the scene.

Choose four words from the list and add an amazing adjective.

Choose a character and use powerful verbs and adverbs to describe their actions.

How many materials can you see in the illustration? Write a sentence about each one.

Choose one of the characters. Write a character sketch.



Prayers please!

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.
Amen.

(Mrs C.F. Alexander, 1818-1895)

Mr J Burns

Headteacher