Earlier this month, soldiers from Brompton Barracks pitted their wits against Year 5 and 6 children, from a number of schools across Medway, during a day of bridge-building at The Royal Engineer’s Museum.

Around 40 children from schools across Medway enjoyed a fun day out of the classroom featuring a range of talks and activities. It ended with the annual bridge-building competition, as the lessons of the day were put to the test.

Five children, who have been taking part in the engineering Friday club, were selected to represent the school in the competition. Hemanta in Year 6 was one of these children. He stated:

“This year we did an Engineering Competition at the Royal Engineers Museum with eight other schools. In the competition, we learnt about civil engineering and built our own bridges. We won 1st place as our bridge held 6.5kg.”

Well done to the team. Brompton Westbrook has an established engineering club, which is supported by STEM ambassadors, who work closely with Miss Ralph, to ensure the children attending are exposed to high quality, enriching experiences. Keep up the fantastic work engineering club!

On the 5th March, some of our Year 6 pupils were given the opportunity to attend the opening of the Town Hall Gardens Project and meet our local councillor and Mayor, Habib Tejan. Brompton Westbrook were invited along, as part of our involvement with PACT (Partners and Community Together). Despite the heavy rain, a great time was had by all, at the start of this worthwhile project.

Years 2 and 6 have been planting trees, in partnership with the Woodland Trust, to create a hedgerow for wildlife and to create a natural screen for forest school sessions. Miss Staples has been running the project for a few years and as a school we have planted lots of native trees, including: silver birch, wild cherry and hazel. Year 2 have used this opportunity to deepen their understanding of their science topic, plants.
This year, Science Week focused around the theme of space. Brompton Westbrook have been involved in local, national and international initiatives, which have involved STEM professionals visiting the school to work with the children. Children have also engaged in online sessions, with real scientists and engineers.

Mission X: Train Like An Astronaut

Mission X is an international educational challenge, focusing on fitness and nutrition, that encourages students to train like an astronaut. Teams of students complete activities to earn points and help the Mission X mascots, Luna and Leo, walk to the Moon. Children from across the school have been taking part in these daily challenges as part of science week.

Jamal, Year 5, wrote: “My favourite Mission X exercise is skipping because ever since the Year 5/6s got skipping ropes, I figured I’d give it a try. I started and I really enjoyed it. After a while I figured out how to do the double skip. This is when you switch where your hands are to make a hole to jump through. Then you quickly jump through before you switch back.”

Astrodome

On 13th March, children from KS2 were fortunate enough to spend an hour in the visiting, Astrodome. Daisy, Year 5, describes her experience: “When we went to the Astrodome, at first I thought it was a blow-up tent. But inside there were lots of stars and a model. The model was of the sun and the moon. It was the eclipse and we learnt how this occurs. We also learnt about black holes. They are very dangerous as they swallow lots of stars and maybe even dwarf planets!”

Star Gazing

Mid-Kent Astronomical Society supported in the star-gazing event, organised by Miss Staples. The event was a huge success, with a fantastic turn out of children, parents and carers.

William, Year 5, who attended the event reports: “At the star-gazing event we did lots. We went outside and saw Venus, as well as the star, Betelguese. We had an interesting talk from the Astronomical Society and then a very long, extraordinarily interesting talk with a man showcasing 5 billion year-old meteorites. We were even allowed to touch and hold some of them. Finally we went outside and looked at Venus and the star constellations, through a high-powered telescope. I learnt that Betelguese is part of the Orion constellation.”

Primary Engineer: If you were an engineer, what would you do?

Following on from the success of the competition last year, where a number of students were awarded the highest recognition of Distinction, Children from KS2 took part in the competition, designing solutions for problems linked to space. To support their designing, many had the chance to work with space engineer Simon Hawkins.

Jaden, Year 5, explained: “I really like speaking to Simon. He told me about the satellite he was working on and I used some of the ideas in my design.”

I’m a Scientist: Get Me Out Of Here!

Abeedah, Year 6, reports: “I really liked this online activity because I got to ask real scientists questions about their job. I told them about my space problem design—space make-up—and asked if they would buy it.”
Science Week
Follow Brompton Westbrook Science on Twitter: @BWPScience1

In addition, each phase carried out scientific activities in class, to practise reasoning and teamwork, linking to other areas of the curriculum.

EYFS
Reception have enjoyed science week by taking part in the Mission X: Train Like An Astronaut space programme, learning facts and taking part in physical activities. Children designed pants after listening to the story ‘Aliens Love Underpants,’ linking science and literacy.

Lower Key Stage 2
Years 3 and 4 were busy conducting a range of experiments linking to landing a space craft on Planet X.

They were told that the planet had a water surface, so needed to create an escape pod, which could float with as many crew members as possible. Year 4 created their vessels out of play dough, but found that these were not water resistant—leading to lots of scientific questioning and reasoning linked to properties of materials. Year 3 were more successful in investigating the best shape for their vessel, by using water-resistant plastercine. In addition, they investigated the best insulator for space suits by measuring the temperature change of water in beakers wrapped in different materials. They also considered how an alien species would be adapted to live on Planet X and designed their own species.

Abeeb, 3W stated: “We had to make a boat and put chick peas in the boat and make it float. It took 159 chick peas until the boat sank.”

Key Stage 1
Diverting from the theme of space, Key Stage 1 focused their science learning around plants. They started their unit with the big question: “Do big seeds make bigger plants?” They explored seed dispersal (including making their own helicopter seeds out of paper) and finally they planted trees in the forest school area. The children were also able to take their own seeds home to grow.

Linking to the theme of space, they have listened to stories about space and thought about what aliens may look like and what the aliens would think about

Upper Key Stage 2
Years 5 and 6 focused their learning around planet Earth and human impact on the environment.

They started the week by investigating the effects of ocean acidification on marine life, by testing the pH of different liquids and then observing the effect of vinegar on sea shells. They then examined satellite images of the Greenland ice sheet and used their maths skills to calculate the depletion of the ice sheet from 1980 to 2015. Finally, they investigated how density affects whether an object will float and changed the density of water by adding salt, making an egg float. This linked to the effect of fresh water glaciers melting into the salt water seas and the impact on ocean currents.

Esteban, Year 5, discussed what he had learnt:
“Global warming was interesting to learn about because it is important to know how this affects the Earth. The reason is there is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It’s like a jumper you wear that traps more heat, making the Earth warmer.”
Science Week
Follow Brompton Westbrook Science on Twitter: @BWPScience1

Here is a selection of what the children have been involved in during the week.

Fantastic examples of home learning from Reception to Year 6.

Some children had the opportunity to have lunch with scientists, engineers and science students from Mid-Kent College.

Children taking part in the ‘Taste in Space’ lunchtime workshop.

Children designed their solutions to space problems with the support and inspiration of real engineers, like Simon Hawkins.

‘Space Art’ workshop with Mrs Pugsley.

The science fare was supported by staff and students at Mid-Kent College, as well as space engineer Simon Hawkins. Children were able to explore space and take part in a number of discovery-based activities.
Beyond the Classroom

Brompton Westbrook Primary School is involved in many initiatives that take place beyond what is learnt in classroom. Many children and teachers give up lunchtimes and time after school to maximise opportunities for learning and to develop our school in different ways. This section gives you the chance to find out more about these each term.

Music Festivals

The musicians at Brompton Westbrook have had an extremely busy term. We have taken part in both the KS1 and KS2 choir festivals, as well as the Medway Music Association recorder festival. Below, Tinuola from Year 5 reports on the KS2 choir festival:

On 12th March, children from years 4-6 went to sing at the Central Theatre, in Chatham, along with other schools in Medway. We had a rehearsal before performing. All through the term we had worked our socks off. Finally the time had arrived. We sang our hearts out and did some actions. We had a fun time with our conductor (Lucy) and it was wonderful.

I spoke to Kehinde in 4M and she said: “It was wonderful but it was also hard because I did not know all of the songs. I had lots of fun because my Mum was there.”

Burnet News Club

In Burnet News this term we have been examining the future of the NHS. We have considered the implications as the population ages, costs rise and competition for staff increases. This issue was started prior to the Corona virus outbreak in the UK, but has proved to be extremely relevant to what is happening in the country (and the world) today. Children continue to build on and develop their skills of reasoning, scepticism, speaking-up and open-mindedness, as they unpick the complex issues within our society.

As always, the quality of blog posts and competition entries have been fantastic. Well done to those children who are continuing to blog, comment and engage with the topic at home. Serious_signature was awarded a star of recognition from the BNC team, for his competition entry, telling a good news story in this time of uncertainty. His entry can be found below.

Brompton Westbrook are now 10th on the leaderboard (out of 117 schools nationwide) for the number of stars of recognition children have received for their outstanding posts and comments. Keep up the great work and continue to engage in these topical debates from home.

KS1 excitedly waiting to perform their Spring Chicken song

serious_signature | Brompton Westbrook Primary School 22 Mar 2020

During the last month covid-19 has gotten out of hand and has caused alot of stress to many people and sadly some people have not survived it but, out of all of this trauma there is one bright side to the dark story and that is how the community are all helping each other and helping battle the evil virus. The people are lending a helping hand to the NHS by following there instructions and also people who are health care workers, who are more likely to catch the virus still go to work to help the old do there daily duties. That, just shows how much respect the people have for each other and we should carry on fighting this tough fight and if we try we can all do it.

THE END.
Sport

As a school, we are continuing to expand our sports provision, enabling more children opportunities to try new sports and compete against other schools. In this edition of the Bugle, children in Years 5 and 6 have been reflecting on their own experiences, representing our school in a range of competitions.

Athletics

This term I took part in an athletics competition with other schools in Medway. During our time we took part in a number of races and events including obstacles, running, long jump and many more. I was selected for the running and obstacle races. Hannah and Abdul won several of their races, which was great for our team. Everybody had so much fun. The team was up against 26 other schools from across Medway. We finished 13th overall, which is a fantastic achievement.

Reported by Ila.

Swimming Gala

I finished 1st for front crawl, 2nd for butterfly and 3rd for backstroke, in the heats I took part in. Hannah came first for all of them, as well as Bivesh. Overall, we came 17th out of 52 schools in this competition. The children who took part were me, Bivesh, Rares, Jake, Yara, Lara, Melissa and Hannah.

Reported by Gagan.

Table Tennis

I had a great experience at Table Tennis Mini Youth Games. We were a group of seven. It was very enjoyable. We didn’t win the Fair-Play Award and we didn’t finish in the top ten either. That wasn’t very great, but it was a good try as it was the first time Brompton-Westbrook had attended the event.

Reported by Kelisha

On the 13th of February 2020, me, Gagan, Hemanta, Rares, Caitlin, Kelisha and Freya went to a table tennis event. It was the first time that we had done it and we came 17th out of 18. We won a few of our matches but it wasn’t enough to secure the victory. We tried our hardest and that’s all that matters.

Reported by Rhys

The new sports kit to be worn by those representing the school—designed by Year 6

Cross-Country

This year, me and a few other people took part in cross-country races with other schools. On 3rd March, we attended a race at St Mary’s Island. When we arrived we ran around the course, to get familiar with it. When the race started, I got half way round and was then puffed out but I kept going. We went forwards, round the corner, in the gate, round the trees, up a hill and then down to the rope. Before I got to the rope I sped past some other children, making me 28th overall.

Reported by Ebony

About 2 whole weeks ago, I went to St Mary’s Island to compete against many other schools in cross-country. At 3.04 pm, the girls race started and Hannah was in the lead but sadly she was over-taken by another girl, making her second overall in the mile long race. For all the boys watching, we were cheering all the girls on. After the girls it was time for the boys. We all tried our best and I am pleased with where I came.

Reported by Nathan
Games and Leisure

In our newspaper we would like to give readers the opportunity to play different games. Last term we gave you the chance to ‘Spot the Difference’ between 2 images and test your general knowledge in our quiz. Due to popular demand, and linking to our science-focused edition, this term we are offering a space quiz. If there are any questions that you do not know the answers to, use your time to investigate for yourselves. Good luck!

1. What is the closest planet to the Sun?
2. What is the name of the 2nd biggest planet in our solar system?
3. What is the hottest planet in our solar system?
4. What planet is famous for its big red spot on it?
5. What planet is famous for the beautiful rings that surround it?
6. Can humans breathe normally in space as they can on Earth?
7. Is the sun a star or a planet?
8. Who was the first person to walk on the moon?
9. What planet is known as the red planet?
10. What is the name of the force holding us to the Earth?
11. Have human beings ever set foot on Mars?
12. What is the name of a place that uses telescopes and other scientific equipment to research space and astronomy?
13. What is the name of NASA’s most famous space telescope?
14. Earth is located in which galaxy?
15. What is the name of the first satellite sent into space?
16. Ganymede is a moon of which planet?
17. What is the name of Saturn’s largest moon?
18. Olympus Mons is a large volcanic mountain on which planet?
19. Does the sun orbit the Earth?
20. Is the planet Neptune bigger than Earth?