

## November 2015

**Catherine Coburn** – We are now well into the third month of the Sensation Activation Project. The initial level of excitement is still being maintained, leaving me more convinced than ever that taking the lead and ownership of the developments has been instrumental in inspiring the children with the STEM subjects.

At the start of this month we had the privilege of hosting a visit from the Mayor. He started by helping Mrs Gray to give out certificates in our weekly celebration assembly and explaining a little but about his role in Derby. The school council children, Mr Cremin and I then had the pleasure of showing him around our school grounds and talking to him about our exciting plans for the Sensation Activation project. The children talked passionately and were very proud of their project - it definitely helped to develop their communication and leadership skills in a meaningful way.

**Claire Gray** - This month, Miss Coburn and I were honoured to be invited to attend the 2015 Rolls Royce Science Prize annual awards evening at the Science Museum, London. We were really looking forward to meeting employees from Rolls Royce and to hearing keynote speakers astronaut Dr Sandy Magnus and Eden Project Sir Tim Smit KBE who indeed lived up to our expectations.

However the real highlight of the evening was the opportunity to talk to this year's finalists who were all in the running for the prize this year. We asked them for advice, suggestions and enjoyed hearing about the impact of their individual projects.

We left London feeling even more passionate about our projects aims and aspirations; in fact we spent the entire return train journey planning the next phase in driving our project forward!

**Kim Harford and Lauren Doyle** - It's been great this month to be the driving forces in organising our special 'Dig and Chip' event that we held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Through this event, we sent out letters and created posters to invite children and their grown-ups to stay after school to make a start on digging up the stones that we want to replace in our Sensory Square through this project. It was great to see such a wonderful team effort with the many families involved getting stuck in and certainly getting their hands dirty! ☺ All the hard work was rewarded at the end with a generous plate of chips and a cob as a huge thankyou to all involved for their efforts. This event certainly managed to raise the profile of the project amongst our parents and carers, with many asking when the next parent event will be.

Here's what some of our families had to say about the event....

***"Great activity for the children and parents to get involved in; great community/school spirit!"***

***"Had a great time gardening with my child and others (really productive and social event). Will definitely do it again next year"***

***"Really enjoyed it and good to see so many helpers here. Will be back again"***

**Chris Morris and Tim Cremin** – As well as assisting Miss Coburn and School Council with the Mayor visit and helping out at the recent Dig and Chip event we have been busy purchasing the children's choice of new materials ready for the installation of the new sensory pathways. So far we have spent just over £860 of the Rolls Royce funding and can't wait for the 28<sup>th</sup> November when staff will be pulling together to lay the new materials. Watch out for the Grand Opening!

*We are still waiting to hear to discover if our recent bid for National Lottery Funding, in order to be able to buy our new outdoor classroom, is successful – fingers crossed! Over the next few weeks the children will be writing invitations to invite 'powerful women STEM role-models' to school to organise the grand opening for the new Sensory Pathway. They will also be busy designers and engineers when designing and making scale models for an exciting new story chair during STEM day two.*



The children thoroughly enjoyed the recent Mayor visit. They developed their communication skills by telling him all about their recent decisions and the future plans for the Sensation Activation Project.



Our 'Dig and Chip' event was a huge success! The families were a great help with removing the impractical stones in preparation to lay our new materials. The chips were delicious!