

Science Week at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, 2017

What happened during Science Week?

Science Week at St Joseph's was highly successful this year, with all children engaged in a wide range of exciting activities, covering every aspect of the science curriculum. They also had the opportunity to meet a number of science professionals, who inspired the children to think about how the science they learn about in class is connected with the science people use in the real world. With so much practical science throughout the week, both inside and outside of class, Science Week has had a lasting impact on our children's attitude to science, which we would like to build on as a school.

Science Professionals

Early in week, we were very fortunate to meet two Rolls Royce STEM ambassadors, who provided a brilliant presentation on how Rolls Royce engines are made and how they work. This linked perfectly with our paper aeroplane competition which took place throughout the week.



As well as teaching the children about how jet engines provide thrust, the presenters gave an excellent overview of how Rolls Royce technology is used in transport systems across the world. The older children in particular, asked many great questions about how the technology works, but also about careers in engineering.

Later in the week, science teachers from Fishermore High school, guided groups of children as they made parachutes, giving some great practical demonstrations on gravity and air resistance.



Product development experts from Silent Night also came in to show the children how science is used in designing and making a mattress. This presentation included many opportunities for the children to explore different materials and gave groups of children the opportunity to use digital microscopes and heat sensing cameras. With this technology, the children could see different properties in materials, such as softness and porousness, while hair follicles, skin pores, head lice and changes to body temperature, could all be easily observed.



Science Shows

Near the close of Science Week, travelling science show presenter, Adrian Bowden, delivered two brilliant presentations for the key stage one and key stage two children. Although Adrian has attended our science weeks for several years now, each time he adapts his show to suit the theme of the week.



This year, his presentations were focussed around 'forces', including those involved with 'flight'. By involving all of the children in exciting games and investigations, and with boxes of scientific toys and apparatus for the children to use, Adrian was able to engage all children in the joy and excitement of scientific discovery.

Science Workshops

On Wednesday, teams of Year 5 and 6 children led their own science workshops for the other classes.



Each team set up a series of demonstrations and activities for younger children to experience, all based around a particular science topic. These included: light and shadows; the senses; sound; air resistance; sinking and floating; forces and surface tension.



For many children, this was the highlight of the week as it allowed them the opportunity to play with equipment, to touch and feel and to talk about science with their peers. Moreover, it gave young children the chance to learn from their friends and the older children the chance to consolidate their understanding of science and to experience the joys of teaching science.

Science week next year

Many of the events in science week could be provided at little or no cost, with most of our guests volunteering and much of the equipment already available in our science cupboard. We do however, need to replenish and replace some of this equipment, not only for science week next year, but also to deliver exciting science lessons in the future, especially with the recent changes to the national curriculum. We would also like to invite the professional science show presenter, Adrien Bowden, to our science week in 2018, as his presentations are able to engage the children in science so effectively. With help from the Rolls-Royce School Governors' Fund, I am confident that we can plan for another successful science week next year.