

2nd February 2021

Head Teacher: Donna Walker

Dear Staff, Parent/Carers and pupils,

As part of our commitment to developing STEM Education and to facilitate pupils in gaining exciting and rewarding careers in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, we aim to provide a curriculum that equips our learners with the skills and opportunities for success.

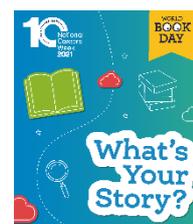
STEM delivery in primary education plays a crucial role and it is vital that pupils are given the opportunity to develop the appropriate skills from an early age. To help us to do this, teachers will plan lessons that promote:

- problem solving
- creativity
- critical analysis
- teamwork
- independent thinking
- taking initiative
- communication
- digital literacy

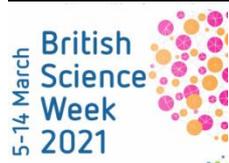
Despite the limitations imposed by the current circumstances, we will continue to support staff and pupils in upskilling in this area, and there is some information about up and coming events that we would like to share with you.

1st – 6th March – National Careers Week 2021

It is never too early to start planning for the future and as part of this national careers event, there are some fantastic resources that link World Book Day and Careers together, encouraging primary children to write about every day super heroes. Resources for this can be downloaded here: <https://nationalcareersweek.com/2021wbd/>



5 – 14th March - British Science Week 2021



This is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths, and the theme this year is 'Innovating for the future'. There are many free resources specifically designed for the primary curriculum.



Head Teacher: Mrs D. Walker BSc (Hons)

British Science Week Activity Packs

These are available at: <https://www.britishsienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/activity-packs/>



British Science Week Poster Competition



Entrants can be teams or individuals and the rules of entry can be viewed at:

<https://www.britishsienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition/>

STEM Learning

This organisation provide a range of high quality teaching and learning resources, suitable for use by teachers, parents and carers, and pupils. They available from:

<https://www.stem.org.uk/primary>



Teaching and Learning

Starters for STEM provides lots of easy to run activities suitable for children from 4-11. They are designed for parents to use at home and are easy-to-use resources that provide children with the stimulus to talk about the world around them.

Home Learning

Take a look at the STEM home learning section of our website to view a range of STEM home learning projects. There are also more primary home learning projects that can be accessed at: <https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning/primary>

Website

Over the coming weeks we will be developing the STEM section of our website. If you have any ideas for STEM activities, information or photos from previous STEM experiences, or if you have any work that could be showcased, then please share that with me. Email them to: Dorothy.Boyle@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

CPD for Staff

Staff should take the opportunity to investigate the range of STEM CPD opportunities available to enhance STEM delivery. A range of online courses are available, many of which come with accreditation. There are also opportunities for bursaries to fund further training. Please see: <https://www.stem.org.uk/online-cpd>

If you have any thoughts, questions, or if need any further guidance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,
Dorothy Boyle
STEM Lead