The Gerrards Cross
Engaging Parents with Science

Summary of Content

Parent expertise in science is often not utilised in school, but this example shows just how motivating and interesting it can be for pupils.

Let's hope it will inspire the Scientists of the future.

What the school says

Using parent expertise provides a free resource that can develop the children's understanding of the wider world and the crucial part science plays in it.

The parent scientists we invite into school are always keen to share their knowledge and skills with the children.

The activities include both demonstration and participation and provide an inspirational 'wow factor'.

A General Practitioner

Organisation

We either make *direct contact* with a parent in a field that supports the curriculum, or we send out a *letter* inviting parent scientists to contribute as a 'one off' in Science Week. (Some of these one off invitations have turned into regular visitors!)

With each new cohort of children, new scientific talent emerges!

In Science Week parents scientists are given a *20 minute* timetabled slot and rotate around several classes in a morning. The classes they visit (either KS1 or KS2) is dependant on the content of their presentations / workshops.

Parent “scientist mornings” during Science Week

Chemistry Workshops

Physics Workshops

Dentist

Doctor

Optometrist

Geologist

Year 6 teacher ' It was great for the children to have a hands on science lesson with chemicals. This is something the children would not normally have access to in the primary curriculum and is good preparation for secondary school'.

Parents were invited to share their knowledge and expertise at the appropriate level for primary children.

Parents with medical expertise

Dental nurse

Cardiologist

Dentist

Pharmacist

Nurses

Physiotherapist

Other Scientists

Geologist

Physicist

Year 2 child 'Our chemistry workshop was great fun and I found out that chemicals can make things hotter or colder'.

Chemist

The impact for our school was .....

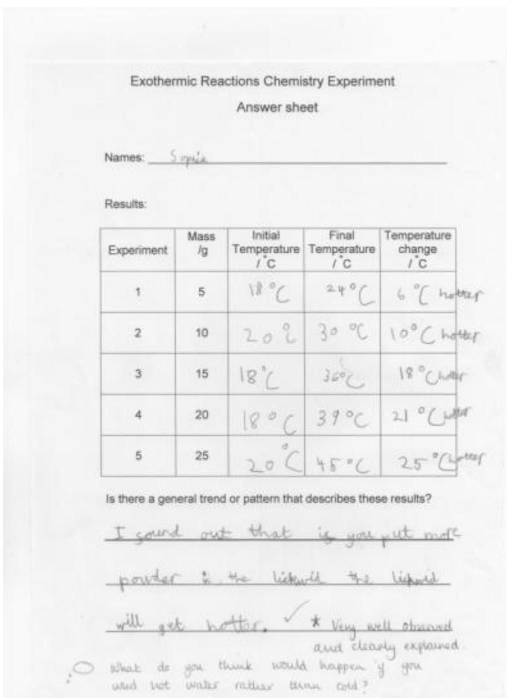
These visits and workshops made science *real* for our children.

They highlighted the wealth of *career choices* available in the field of Science.

Complicated scientific fields such as *solar power*, *cardiology* and *aeronautical engineering* were adapted and simplified to make *technical knowledge available* to our primary school children.

Science Subject Leaders Comments

Our parents are very supportive of our curriculum and the children have opportunities to follow up these visits with classroom activities. It really raises the profile of science in our school.



Exothermic Reactions Chemistry Experiment

Answer sheet

Names:

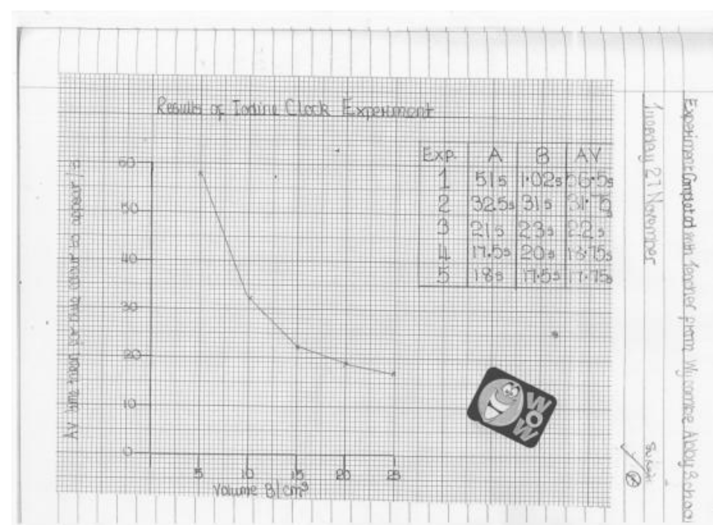
Results:

Experiment	Mass /g	Initial Temperature /°C	Final Temperature /°C	Temperature change /°C
1	5	18 °C	24 °C	6 °C hotter
2	10	20 °C	30 °C	10 °C hotter
3	15	18 °C	36 °C	18 °C hotter
4	20	18 °C	39 °C	21 °C hotter
5	25	20 °C	45 °C	25 °C hotter

Is there a general trend or pattern that describes these results?

I found out that if you put more powder in the liquid the liquid will get hotter. ✓ * Very well observed and clearly explained

What do you think would happen if you used hot water rather than cold?



What we will do next

- We will continue to invite parent scientists to share their expertise with the children to enhance our creative curriculum.

- The best part is that with each new cohort of children further professions emerge.