



Honeywell Infant School

Using our website to communicate and engage Parents with our science



Summary of Content

Here are some useful ideas for engaging parents with science in school from informing parents of termly science topics, sharing homework tasks and inviting parents with scientific jobs to share their expertise.

The school website plays a vital role.



What the school says

One of the focuses of our PSQM submission was to engage parents and encourage home school learning links. As a staff we discussed the possibility of parents who may be scientists or who work within a science environment and encouraging them into the school.

We also wanted to encourage children to engage in meaningful science at home and one of the ways of doing this was to engage the parents in our science activities.

We had a science week planned so this seemed like an ideal opportunity to broaden our home school links and encourage parents to see what we do in science and where possible, take part in our science learning.

Firstly we sent a newsletter home (these are available on our website too)

SCIENCE WEEK

Planning is well under way for our Science week which will take place next half term. If you are able to contribute anything, please contact your child's class teacher or the Science leader.

SCIENCE WEEK

The Infant School are holding a special Curriculum Week during the week of the 9th March. We have planned some really interesting activities in the classroom and some exciting visitors over the week including a Birds of Prey Show and a Slime Workshop for all children and a Minibeast Show for the Reception and Nursery children.

There will be an exhibition of the children's work in the Infant Hall during the following week on the 18th and 19th March.

Please make a note of the dates so you can and come and see for yourself all the fabulous things the children have done.

Engaging parents with topics

Numeracy
Year 2 will:

- Count in steps of 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10.
- Recognise odd and even numbers.
- Understand what each digit in 2 and 3 digit numbers represents.
- Develop strategies to help with addition and subtraction.
- Deal with problems involving money and giving change.
- Estimate and compare a mass in kilograms.
- Learn about 3D shapes.

Science
Our topic is Variation. The children will begin to work on ideas related to the science of classification. They will:

- Compare humans with other animals.
- Observe similarities and differences between members of the class.
- Observe similarities and differences between plants and think about how they adapt to suit their environment.
- Identify different features and criteria to sort groups of animals.

Literacy
The children will focus on story writing. They will learn about key elements of storywriting such as characters, settings and endings. They will also:

- Continue to learn to spell common, high frequency words.
- Revise spelling patterns 'oy', 'ear', 'air' and learn about compound words.
- Continue to work on basic punctuation and sentence structure.

Geography
Our topic is The Amazon. The children will:

- Make comparisons between our local environment and the environment in The Amazonian Rainforest.
- Learn what it is like to live in The Amazon and identify similarities and differences.

ICT
Year 2 will:

- Learn how to control a floor robot by entering instructions.
- Continue to improve word processing skills and familiarisation with the keyboard.
- Learn to save work for later editing and improvement.

PE
In PE the children will be developing their game and team skills concentrating on football. They will also have an indoor session where they will do circuits concentrating on improving their balance, agility, co-ordination and general fitness.

Art
The children will:

- Look at the work of Henry Rousseau and appreciate how he used line, tone and shape in his drawings and paintings of animals.
- Create their own Rousseau 'Tiger in the storm' painting using paints and oil pastels.

Music
The children will:

- Listen to and learn about songs and instruments from the Amazon.

P.H.S.E.
This half term we will follow the SEAL theme "Going for Goals" and the children will set themselves a target and a New Year's Resolution. They will also think about how human actions can affect the environment and how they are responsible for looking after the world.

R.E.
The children will learn about some of the miracles that Jesus performed and the parables that he told.

Year 2 The Rainforest
Spring 2015

Every year group sends out a weekly and half termly newsletter detailing our overall topic and activities completed that week. This is important to engage the parents with what the children are learning and also to give the parents the opportunity to support their child's learning at home – in science, but in every other subject area too.

Nursery weekly newsletter showing specific science activities at school and to try at home. All year groups do the same.

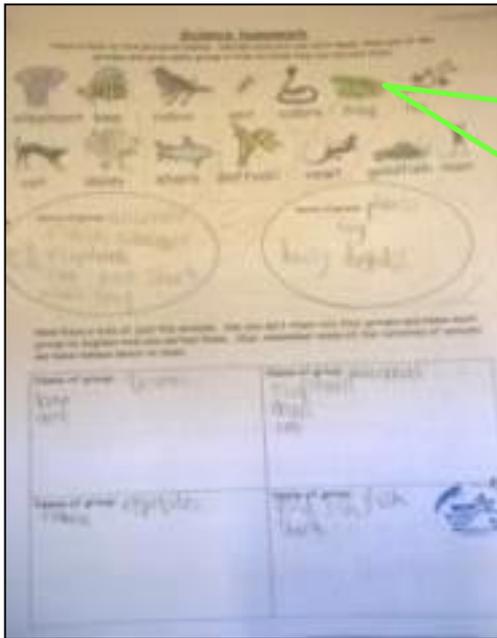
What we have been learning this week 21.11.14



This week we have been focussing on the specific area of the EYFS curriculum of 'Understanding the World,' through lots of exciting science activities. We've been exploring colour and light, textures, gloopy cornflour and water mixed together, bubble mixture, colour mixing, magnets and watching science experiments on the carpet such as watching raisins bounce in lemonade (try it at home) and making wizard's brew that bubbles over with bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. We have created a dark tent where the children can experiment with torches and other things that glow in the dark. We have been exploring which junk would make the best boat to take Cinderella to the ball to make sure it doesn't sink and discovering which guttering will get her to the palace the quickest. We are encouraging the children to be able to verbalise their observations by looking back at photos of themselves in action and they are becoming great scientists!

Half-termly topic web including science sent to parents – all year groups.

Engaging parents with homework



Parents were asked to help children sort these living things and put them in the correct group e.g. mammals

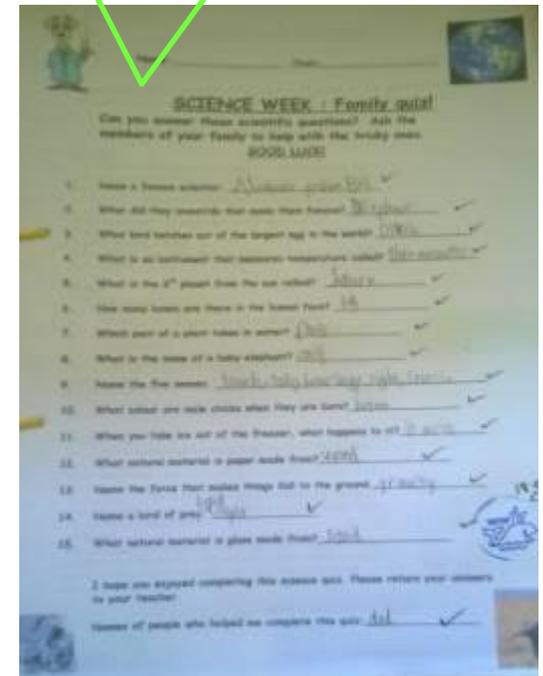
We sent a science quiz home to be completed by the whole family which promoted children and their parents working together.

How you can support your child at home:

Encourage your child to use a magnet and go around the house discovering which objects are magnetic. What happens when your child tries to push two magnets together?

Help them to talk about their findings, introducing different materials such as plastic, paper, china, glass, metal etc.

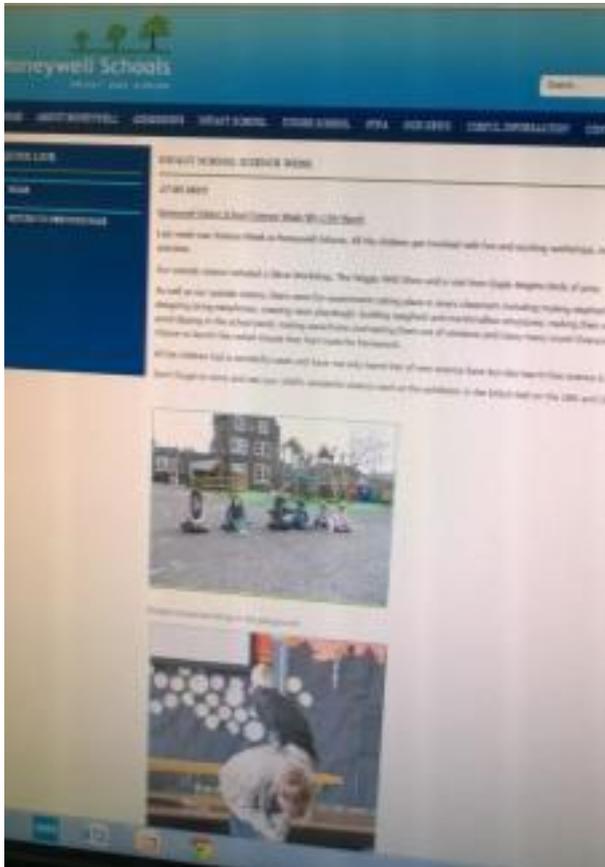
Make a maze with magnetic creatures and either bring it in or take photos of your budding scientists.



Science Week whole school homework

Engaging parents through the website

Science Week activities are posted on the school website



Our school website is essential in liaising with parents and keeping them up-to-date on not only daily information like term dates, but also specific information on their child's learning and special events. During science week I made sure our extra science activities were highlighted on the website. Additionally to this, all half termly topic webs are also available for parents to read online.

Nursery ramp outdoor activity
"This was really good, we were seeing how fast they went. If it was high it went the fastest" said Attie, Adventurers Class.



Engaging parents with science week



This Mum is a microbiologist. She talked to all three Year 2 classes about what that meant and to show them she got them to wipe a clean finger and a muddy finger in her special petri dishes. She then cultivated them in the lab and brought them back in to show the children how germs grow. We used the information to talk to the children about washing their hands!

Visiting scientist to Year 2 (parent) to investigate germs!



**Honeywell Infant School Science
Exhibition**

Thank you for visiting our exhibition. We hope you have enjoyed looking at all the wonderful work. We would welcome any comments and feedback you have. Thank you

Name and child's class	Your comments
Mon - Cherry class	What an amazing exhibition so much effort went into displaying all the lovely work - well done!
Sarah - Nige class	A wonderful idea. The parents and children enjoyed it together - very good!
Henry Palm	I really liked making a telephone
Jessie - Poppy	I liked the whole of science week has been thoroughly enjoyed by Jess. Thanks for all the hard work.
Reeve - Quinn	Thank you! We had a lot of fun and really liked making the exhibit. It was very impressive.
Sophie - Mandy - Talia -	I really enjoyed making a kite. Also I planted some seeds in a pot. Looking forward to seeing them grow!

The feedback we received from both parents and children following our science week and exhibition was extremely positive. A recurrent theme was that the parents loved being able to see what their children had been doing and sharing in this by coming to the exhibition and seeing the photos on the website.

It also gave the children a chance to say what they had enjoyed.

Feedback from staff was also good. It feels really positive to be able to show off the work the children have completed.

The impact for our school was

The impact of children sharing their science work with their families is that it gives them a context and allows them to take pride in their work and its outcomes.

Parents and carers are able to see first-hand what science looks like at Honeywell Infant School.

Science Subject Leaders Comments

By involving parents in workshops and homework, the children have been given an opportunity to engage in meaningful science at home in a way that can be shared and encouraged by the whole family.

We find that we can communicate very effectively through our website.





What we will do next

As a direct result of this, I am now working with the rest of the school to ensure science homework becomes standard and ties in directly to the science learning taking place in school.

I also want to continue to invite parents into school as appropriate, if they work in the sciences or have a background in a science field.