



Curriculum Newsletter

June 2021

Welcome

Welcome back to a new and exciting summer term. This edition of our curriculum newsletter highlights some of the exciting STEM learning (Science Technology, Engineering and Maths) children experienced across school last term. STEM is one of the three key elements of our bespoke Menston curriculum alongside outdoor learning and health and well-being education. Our commitment to STEM education supports our children in developing the knowledge, skills and approaches to thinking which will prepare them for future opportunities in our rapidly changing world. You can find out more about our STEM teaching on our STEM page on the website: [STEM at Menston](#)

If you would like to look back at previous editions of our curriculum newsletter these can now be found under the 'Parents' tab of our website: [Curriculum Newsletters](#)

Foundation



This half term, children have been inspired by Superworm to find out all about minibeasts. They have been mini-beast hunting and they discovered lots of wonderful creepy crawlies. They learnt that caterpillars have six eyes and butterflies have legs! They made wormeries in class and enjoyed watching the worms tunnel.



Children finished the half term by planting in our Foundation garden. They are now growing mint, lavender and even strawberries. Do you think we will be allowed to try one?

Year 1



Plants! Plants! Plants! We have been learning lots about plants in Year 1. Children went on a nature hunt to name and find different plants that grow in our school environment. They also searched for deciduous and evergreen trees. Children enjoyed labelling the parts of trees and flowers. They worked in the poly tunnel to plant sunflower seeds and ate the salad leaves that they had grown. Yum! Yum!



Year 2



Children enjoyed our STEM challenge of designing and making a strong bridge with only one piece of paper. They had to estimate how many pennies their bridge would hold before testing the strength of it using 1p coins. After making their first bridge, they got the opportunity in their teams to redesign their bridges. It was important that they listened to each other and worked well as a team. Can you believe one of the bridges held 84p?



We have also been learning to code using Purple Mash Coding, Bee bots and the Bee bot app on the Ipad.

Year 3



In Year 3, children have been learning about algorithms in their computing lessons. First of all, they learnt that algorithms are like a set of instructions. They used chalk on the playground to create a maze for their partner to follow. They had to give their partner instructions to follow, just like an algorithm for a computer. Children have also been learning to use the Probots. They had to programme them to complete a set of Roman-inspired challenges!

Year 4



Linked to our history learning about Vikings, Year 4 designed and built their own Viking long boats. Just like the Vikings, the children only had limited materials with which to make their vessel. Once the ships were made, they needed to ensure that they were sea worthy. A few of the boats were not water tight on the first testing so some adjustments were needed to the designs.



Once the adjustments were made, the terrifying Viking fleet could set sail.

The children have also created mini water worlds to help them understand the water cycle. Inside the sealed containers, they put water and seeds to grow vegetation. The children then observed the mini worlds each day to watch evaporation and condensation in action.



Year 5



In Year 5, we have learnt about the life cycles of different animals. We went pond dipping and found pond animals at different stages of their life cycle. We even found a newt! It was interesting to compare the life cycles of different animals. Linked to our work on life cycles and our topic of Whitby, we have also been creating our own print-making artwork based on rock pool animals. We enjoyed drawing inspiration from the artist, Clare Youngs.



Year 6



In Year 6, children have been learning about transport in the human body. They made models of the circulatory system with play pod equipment and recorded explanations on iPads. They planned and carried out their own investigations into the effect of exercise on heart rate and enjoyed using pulse oximeters. They also got very messy whilst demonstrating the journey of food through the body, focussing on how nutrients are transported.

SKILLS BUILDER



This half-term we will be teaching speaking skills across all year groups.

More information about the Skills Builder approach in our school can be found under the 'Parents' section of our website: [Skills Builder at Menston](#)

