

# Science Detectives – Autumn 1 update Dec 16

This term's topic has focussed on STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The whole school was treated to a show from a real life scientist from “Wonderstruck” who, as well as teaching us lots about how things worked, made some incredible flashes and bangs! We have many eager future scientists in our

school now. Huge thank you to the PTFA who funded this. Every child in the school has taken part in a Christmas performance; Reception - “Freddie and the Fairy”, KS1 – “Hey Ewe” and KS2 – Christmas Carol Concert at St John's church. We are so proud of them all for the wonderful singing, dancing, acting and reading. Every year group has had an RE focus on Christmas where the children looked at different aspects of the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.



It has been an exciting half term in **Reception**. The children started the term reading “Stickman” which spurred lots of writing and creative activities. They also made stickman biscuits. In forests school visits, they children made mud pies and used sticks to make Stickman himself. On display in the classrooms are incredible firework pictures and handmade rockets. Outside in the playground, we have some new equipment to help us develop our outdoor learning. The children performed a fantastic performance of “Freddie and the Christmas Fairy.” They have also been to see “The Snail and the Whale” at Deptford Theatre. A huge thank you goes to a group of parents who are running a class library for the children.



The **Year 1** topic was **Fairy Tale Engineering**. The children built parachutes for Jack to escape from the giant in “Jack and the Beanstalk”. They designed and made rafts for “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” and some of the children tested these out either in Peckham Rye pond! After reading “The Three Little Pigs”, the children made spaghetti and marshmallow, cardboard and wooden houses. All of these projects were designed and tested by the children. This led to lots of fabulous explanation writing about how things work! They also wrote letters to the three little pigs. In RE, the focus was on characters from the Christmas nativity story. All of Year 1 took part in a Southwark KS1 Multiskills Festival at the Damilola Taylor Centre.

**Year 2** have focussed on **Chocolate** and more explicitly on “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”. A wonderful visit to the Brixton Chocolate Museum enabled the children to learn about the history of chocolate, how it is made and included a taster session as well as the opportunity to make their own chocolates. This inspired amazing writing from the children and they were able to write their own new chapters for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. In science the children have looked at the properties of materials and in Art they have made enormous papier mache sweets. Their acting and singing in “Hey Ewe” was brilliant!

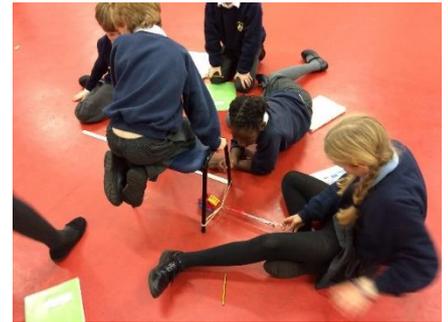


This term, **Year 3** have read “Iron Man” in their topic called **The Force of Giants**. The children watched parts of the film which has helped them to create their own creature which they incorporated in to their own version of the story. They have used a programme called ZU3D to create Iron Man animations. They have written newspaper articles and menus for him too! The topic began by measuring how big the Iron Man is and then making a scaled model. In art, the children printed images of tools to create a giant Iron Man display. They have even incorporated their topic into their dance lessons by emulating robotic movements into dance. The children have been totally inspired by this topic.



**Year 4** 's topic was **Gadgets and Gizmos**. It was based on a story called “Operation Gadget Man”. The children learned about electricity and how to make a complete circuit. They used this knowledge to make an electronic game. A visit to the Science Museum taught them more about electricity and they enthused about a solar powered car. In music, they have learned to use music notation and composed their own song about gadgets and gizmos. In RE they have learned about peace, love and joy and in PE they have played badminton, tennis and volleyball.

The **Year 5** children have learned about **Forces in Motion**. They have looked into air resistance, gravity, magnetism and friction. They also learned about notable black scientists. They took part in a Black History project called “Hairlooms” which looked at cultural identity with a focus on hair. The children were inspired to write rap songs and poems as well as create artwork and a fabulous hair inspired textile. In RE the children have looked at Christmas through art and music.



**Year 6**'s topic was called **Light, Camera, Action**. The children focussed on the wonderful book, “The Inventions of Hugo Cabret” and wrote a range of texts, including a short story based on the tale. They also looked at light in Science and investigated how the eye works and the effect of light sources on shadows and colours. In Art, they created pictures and drawings in the style of the Hugo author and illustrator, Brian Selznick. One of the highlights of the half term for many children was the PGL trip to Marchant’s Hill where they enjoyed an action-packed adventure break. Meanwhile others had a week full of exciting visits and activities.

Next half term’s topic is **Making a difference**

The focus for each year group is: **Reception** – Dinosaurs,  
**Year 1** – Send for a Superhero, **Year 2** – How can we save them? **Year 3** – Light of the World ,  
**Year 4** – Engineering Excellence, **Year 5** – Space Pioneers **Year 6** – From Tiny Acorns...  
 Our learning skill next half term is : Risk Taking

Anna Harding

*Anna Harding*