STEM Focus Week (13th – 17th March)

Our STEM focus week will take place between **Monday 13th March – Friday 17th March**. This year, our children will be exploring the theme of 'Connections'.

Key Outcomes:

*I can design and build a house that will withstand challenges **#adventurous***
*I can explain the impact of a carbon footprint on the planet **#ethical***
*I can find treasures in nature to construct a stick man **#unique***
* I can use numbers, counting, shapes and space to build a huge structure **#connected***

Think:
What is your carbon footprint and how can you help slow down climate change?
All children – Friday 10th March

On Friday, Mrs Higgs will give an assembly to introduce the STEM challenge. Children will think about the drastic changes the world is experiencing with a focus on flooding because of climate change. Children will receive their design brief for the week:

- *To design and build a **green top roofed house** that will **withstand the challenges of flooding.***
- *The house is **no bigger than 30cm high and 30 cm wide**.*
- *The house is strong and holds at least tray of cress seeds on its roof **(12cm x 9cm)***
- *Design and build a stickman using sticks and string*

Children will return to their classes to explore calculating a carbon footprint.

Research…
How does climate change contribute to flooding?
All chn – Monday 13th March

In classes, children will explore how climate change has contributed to flooding throughout the world. In KS2, children will participate in climate change debates where they will consider the viewpoints of different people using role play.

Discover…
Using numbers, counting, shapes and space to build a huge structure.
All chn – Mon or Tues

All children will participate in an architecture workshop which aims to stimulate imaginations and challenge children to be creative, problem solvers and team workers. You can find out more by visiting their website: https://www.architectureworkshops.org

Create and construct…
a product that fits a design brief.
All children – Weds-Friday

Children will work in groups of 3-4 in mixed KS1 and KS2 classes to develop a strong house that with withstand the effects of flooding:

- *Is your stick man protected by your house?*
- *How much mass can it hold?*
- *How waterproof is your house?*

Share…
a product that fits a design brief.
All children – Mon 20th

Children will present their product to judges who will score their design by: sieving 50g salt (to simulate rain) over the top of the house from 1m from the ground to test protectiveness; *placing a tray of cress seeds on its roof*, and *an additional 3, 500g weights, 1 at a time, to test strength*; and filling base with 100ml water to test waterproofness. Once scored using a point system, a winning design team for KS1 and KS2 will be announced.

Connect…
with scientists!
All children

During the week, we a range of professionals from the STEM industry will talk with our children about STEM in everyday life.

Become…a scientist!
Whole School – Wednesday 22nd March SVSJ STEAM Fair

All children are invited to complete an earth and/or space Science project at home and share this at our STEAM fair (see STEAM fair letter)

Become…a scientist!
Year 5 – Tuesday 14th March with **Bath Astronomers** @ 6.30pm

On Tuesday, children in Year 5 will be invited back to school for an evening with Bath Astronomers. Here, they will have the opportunity to use telescopes, explore a planetarium, and make planispheres and sun dials.