

British Science Week 2020

Great Ponton CE Primary School



I hope everyone has a fantastic British Science Week. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching your children science this year and I am always so excited when they tell me of how they have explored our topics at home. So I thought I would share a few ideas of fun activities for you to enjoy with them throughout the year too, have fun!

From Mrs McGowan

Spring

- ❖ Make the most of April showers, pop your wellies on and go out to splash in puddles, draw chalk circles around them and explore what happens when the sun comes out. Talk to children about the water cycle.
- ❖ Chase rainbows or create your own by filling a clear/smooth glass with water and shining a light through it. Research the spectrum of colour or take a visit to Woolsthorpe Manor and discover more about Issac Newton who discovered this!
- ❖ Sew a wild garden with flowers designed to attract butterflies and bees. Talk to children about life cycles, or research how environmental factors are affecting our insect population and what we can do to help.
- ❖ Make an Easter bonnet from natural materials, possibly by decorating/upcycling an old hat, discuss the difference between natural and man-made items.
- ❖ Using any spare materials you can find, test/make a suitable waterproof jacket for a toy. Take the toy on a walk in the rain once tested.
- ❖ Visit a local farm and see how many adult and baby animals can you find, what are their names, how are the offspring different from their parents, how are they the same/different to us?
- ❖ Plant some vegetables in your garden, courgettes/potatoes/lettuce/green beans usually do very well. Have a family/friend competition who can grow the largest. Host a mini farm show/food festival with friends/family to showcase your crop!

Lots more lovely ideas here, make your own static electricity butterfly and watch seeds germinate seeds in a jar!

<https://funlearningforkids.com/spring-science-activities/>



Summer

- ❖ Go on a sensory walk, stopping to explore what you can see, smell, hear and feel. You could even create a sensory scrapbook of places you explore over the weekend/holidays. Another idea is to create a sensory area if you have a garden, filled with fragrant and colourful flowers, make windchimes from string and natural materials create a path with different textures to walk barefoot on, or fill plant pots with calming things to feel that you have found in the wild.
- ❖ Visit a pick your own fruit farm or plant your own fruit from seeds. Talk to farmers about how their food grows or observe this in your own food. Make a picnic or invent a dish with these fresh ingredients and explore nutrition and the foods our bodies need. Make ice lollies from fruit and talk to children about states of matter (solids/liquids/gases).
- ❖ Make a sundial. Poke a stick into the ground and each hour come to draw a chalk line where the stick casts a shadow, note down the time. Then next day use these angles to create your own sun dial to tell the time!
- ❖ Head to the beach and explore rock pool habitats, or create a beach day in your garden, fill up your paddling pool and buy some play. Use a range of containers to teach children about capacity/floating and sinking forces as they explore the water and build sandcastles.
- ❖ There are also some exciting summer science ideas here from creative bubble blowing experiments, creating a natural perfume, to constructing a perfect den!
<https://www.science-sparks.com/summer-science/>



Autumn

- ❖ As the nights draw in, go star gazing on a clear night. Bask in the peace of the moonlight, explore constellations with children and why we have night and day. There are brilliant Apps you can install too, such as SkyView Free and Star Walk where if you hold a device up to the sky it will tell you what stars you are looking at. Also the NASA App where you can see the latest NASA photos, videos and features – and watch NASA events in real-time – you can look back down at the Earth from the International Space Station. If children become really interested in space, a trip to the National Space Centre is literally out of this world, they can become little astronauts training for missions and actually feel they are immersed in space in the planetariums.
- ❖ Create a bug hotel for insects to refuge in, when it gets colder. Collect a range of natural materials that would promote dark and damp conditions and use anything you could recycle for the basic structure such as old tin cans, tiles, pieces of wood, etc.
- ❖ Visit a local park or even your garden and collect leaves, create rubbings using either a crayon and paper or with aluminium foil.
- ❖ Talk to children about harvest and visit a local windmill on selected open days, buy some flour and bake your own bread/make soup with picked seasonal ingredients.
- ❖ Go on a bat hunt in the grounds of Lincoln Cathedral at dusk or from November head out to Donna Nook on the Lincolnshire coast to see hundreds of new-born seal pups up close.

There are some more exciting Autumn science links on this site, such as gravity tests with apples, nocturnal animal tracking and pumpkin growing.

<https://www.kcedventures.com/blog/outdoor-fall-science-activities>



Winter

- ❖ If we are lucky enough to have real snow, gather three similar size snowballs and place in different parts of the house/garden. Predict which will melt first and explore why. You could also do this by first filling balloons with water and freezing overnight, creating giant balls of ice. You could even freeze characters inside them to be freed!
- ❖ Create sledges from cardboard/wrapped in plastic bags for figures/teddies. Have a race down a slope (with snow if it is around). Does the weight of the toys affect how far/fast they travel? How could you test this? What if you changed the shape of the sledges/added a material that creates more friction?
- ❖ Go on a Winter scavenger hunt, make a list of things you may find such as holly, a leaf skeleton etc. Add some competition where each family member collects a point per find. Or go in search of signs of winter, looking for evergreen plants and why most plants are bare. Take twigs and responsible cuttings and make natural Christmas decorations, discuss ecological issues and how an eco-friendly Christmas could help the planet.
- ❖ Go on a wildlife hunt at a local reserve, what animals did you see/evidence such as dens/nibbles berries/twigs etc, paw prints. What could be hard for animals living in the wild in winter? How can we help them? Make natural bird feeders using dried fruit threaded with string/twigs.
- ❖ There are some amazing ideas on this link too, such as making snow ice cream, your own frost, snow slime, snow volcanoes, ice fishing in a glass and snowflake salt painting!

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/winter-science-ideas-kids/>

