SMC's Science Week Newsletter 2026

Last week our school celebrated British Science Week with a range of exciting activities designed to inspire curiosity and encourage pupils to think like scientists.

Throughout the week, children across the school took part in hands-on investigations, experiments and problem-solving challenges in their classrooms. Pupils explored scientific ideas through practical activities, making predictions, testing their ideas and sharing their discoveries.

Some classes also joined a special BBC Live Lesson where pupils helped create a movie starring the Moon from Horrible Science. The session even included a special appearance from astronaut Tim Peake, who shared fascinating facts about the Moon. Pupils enjoyed taking part in the interactive activities and learning alongside children from schools across the country.

Lunchtimes became a lively hub of scientific exploration as pupils from all year groups investigated the theme of light and colour. The hall and outdoor spaces were filled with curious scientists experimenting, discussing ideas and making discoveries together. Pupils examined colours under microscopes, created and spun their own Newton's Discs to see how colours combine, and explored how light behaves using lenses and prisms. Many were fascinated to see white light separate into a rainbow of colours.

The excitement continued with a science scavenger hunt around the school grounds, where children searched for colours in nature and signs of spring while sharing their observations with one another.

Back in the classroom, pupils carried out chromatography investigations, using kitchen paper and water to separate the pigments in coloured inks. They were amazed to discover that a single pen colour can contain many hidden colours, helping to develop their observation skills and understanding of how colours mix and separate.

Science Week has been a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their scientific thinking, curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. It has been wonderful to see so many children asking questions, exploring ideas and sharing their discoveries with others.

Year Reception

The children in Reception have had a fantastic time taking part in Science Week. One of their favourite activities was experimenting with chromatography. The children drew circles on kitchen roll using coloured pens and then made predictions about what might happen when we added water. They were fascinated to watch as the colours began to spread and merge into one another, creating beautiful patterns.

Next week, we will be turning these colourful creations into butterflies, helping to enhance our learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. We currently have caterpillars in our classroom and the children have loved observing them closely and watching them grow. We are all very excited to see the next stage of their life cycle.

The children have also been busy growing beans and observing the changes that happen as the plants develop. They have been learning about what plants need to grow and have enjoyed checking on them each day to see how much they have changed.

It has been wonderful to see the children asking questions, making predictions and exploring the world around them like real scientists.

Year 1

Year 1 created Mother's Day cards using chromatography. The children enjoyed watching the colours spread across the paper.

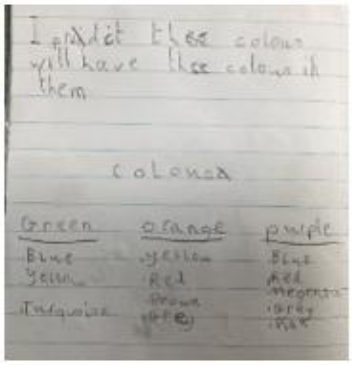
Maisy commented, 'This process is similar to tie dye!' and Franek said, 'You can see other colours coming out of one colour.'

Year 2

Year 2 had a fantastic time taking part in all the exciting activities during Science Week. The children particularly enjoyed using their prediction skills during our chromatography investigation. Before starting the experiment, they carefully thought about what might happen and made predictions about how the colours would change.

As the investigation unfolded, the children were amazed to see the different colours separating and spreading across the paper. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to observe closely, think like scientists, and discuss why the changes were happening.

Science Week was a great success in Year 2, and the children loved exploring, questioning, and discovering through hands-on experiments!



Year 3

Year 3 had an exciting time during Science Week, exploring new ideas and investigating the world around them. A highlight was taking part in a live BBC lesson all about the themes of light, where the children learned about reflection, refraction, and how light travels. They were fully engaged, asking thoughtful questions and making excellent observations throughout the session.

In class, we linked this learning to our own practical investigations using chromatography. The children experimented with separating colours in inks and dyes, observing how mixtures can be broken down into their component parts. This hands-on approach really helped them to connect the scientific concepts from the lesson to real-life experiments.

Caleb was inspired to bring in a mechanical hand he had made to share his scientific endeavours with the class. He said it took him 3 days to make although some bits were a little tricky!

It was a fantastic week of discovery, curiosity, and scientific thinking, and we are so proud of the way Year 3 embraced every investigation with enthusiasm and care.

Year 4

Year 4 celebrated Science Week by taking part in an exciting live BBC lesson all about Space. The children learned about space exploration, the Moon, and how scientists continue to discover more about our universe.

To link with the theme, the class also carried out a chromatography investigation to test which pen was suitable to take to Space. The children explored how different colours separate into their individual pigments, just like scientists do when analysing materials. They really enjoyed watching the colours spread and discovering the hidden colours within each marker. After close observation, critical thinking and analysing the different ink chromatography, it was concluded that the Sharpie was the most suitable pen to take to Space, as the ink remained in a line. Children related to the concept that there is microgravity in Space and taking a felt tip or our other two pens would not be suitable.

This activity also connected to current events in space exploration, as NASA prepares for the Artemis II mission, which plans to send astronauts around the Moon. The children were fascinated to learn how modern missions continue to build on what we know about space and help us prepare for future exploration. Year 4's kept their curiosity going by writing down any big questions they had which have been added to our Science question park in the Library. They loved the lunch time activities that Miss Collins set up in the Library!

Year 5

During Science Week, Year 5 explored the scientific technique of chromatography. The children discovered that black marker ink is actually made up of several different coloured dyes. As the water travelled up the tissue paper, it carried the dyes with it, separating them and revealing the hidden colours. We also experimented with different coloured markers and observed how the pigments spread at different speeds, before creating some lovely chromatography art.

We also engaged with the BBC Science Live Lesson where the children learnt that the Moon does not produce its own light, but instead reflects light from the Sun. To demonstrate this, the children modelled how sunlight reflects off the Moon and travels to Earth.

It was a fantastic week of curiosity and investigation, and it was clear that we have many budding scientists in Year 5!





Year 6

In Year 6 we tied our Science Week activities into our overall Science and English topic of How the Circulatory System works.
We started off with our first lesson on what the circulatory system is - the children drew diagrams of the heart and the direction of blood flow around the system. This week we have looked at the heart itself and had an amazing time making a working model of a heart using beakers, food die, straws and balloons...we even managed to get the blood to flow through the straws - luckily, we had trays to catch the 'blood' otherwise Mrs Mulholland and Mr Rashleigh would not have been happy with food colouring all over the new carpets! ☺

Our final part of Science week involved learning how to take our pulse so that we could investigate the impact that exercise has on our heart rate - the noise of us exercising in the class sent Mrs Ridguard's heart rate up for sure.

Science week has been great and we look forward to writing up all that we have learnt in an Explanation Text in English.