



Southridge First School STEAM Week Newsletter

What a fabulous week we have had. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have had visits from Rockpool School helping us to understand the impact of plastic in our rockpools. Year 3 and 4 had a visit from Daniel Turner who told them about the impact of plastic on birdlife. Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 have also had visits from parents. A huge thank you to them for giving us their time. We ended the week with a very exciting assembly from Professor Onesmith of 'Cool Science' which certainly ended our STEAM week with a bang! A big thank you to the PTA for funding some of our STEAM week activities.

Despite the cold and windy weather we were amazed at just how much rubbish we found in only 30 minutes during our Beach Clean event, particularly when at first glance it appears that the beach and surrounding areas are clean! A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and children who came to support us.



The children have let their creative juices flow as they took part in a writing competition linked to our theme. They all did brilliantly well and the winners will be announced in assembly next week.

Our bottle top mural is looking fantastic and is almost finished. The children have all had a go at placing bottle tops on the picture and the finished piece of art will hang proudly on the wall outside the ICT suite as a constant reminder about the importance of 'Keeping Our Sea Plastic Free'. We still need BLUE bottle tops so that we can finish our mural - please send them in if you have any.



STEAM Week News From Around the School

In Nursery the children have enjoyed listening to the stories and exploring ways to reduce our plastic use. They have had a good at recycling paper and are making their very own eco-brick seat.

Reception children enjoyed a visit from Mr Penfold, one of our parents, who carried out science experiments with them. They talked about how to become a scientist and the children were inspired to invent something that can scoop plastic out of the sea.

Year 1 children talked passionately about a visit from Mr Constable, a parent, who showed them how dirty water can be purified to make it safe to drink. They particularly enjoyed the 'skittle magic' experiment which many children went home and tried again for themselves. They also talked about a dancing raisin experiment. 'The bubbles were sticking to the wrinkles and pushed it up.' They also loved a visit from Mr Giles-Brown, another parent, who told them about his job designing Caterpillar trucks.

Year 2 had a fabulous day at Gibside where they explored den building. They also reused plastic bottles to make their own rain gauges and one child enthusiastically talked about the superhero he had designed to fight plastic. 'He heats plastic so hot it bursts into fish food. The red represents the fire and the blue represents the ocean.'

Year 3 talked about their visit from Mr Turner who told them how surveys are carried out in different countries to look at the impact of plastic on birds. One child said, 'It's not just the creatures in the sea it's other animals too.' They have also had great fun sharing their Wow Science experiments with their class and have designed a new use for a plastic bottle.

Year 4 children have made 3D sculptures out of junk, inspired by the artist Gilles Cenezandotti. They have watched video clips to help them explore the issue and talked about a polluted river. 'It's the villages only water source. The chemical factories have pipes coming from them into the water. People play in that water.' They have also looked at plastic being used in football strips and wrote a newspaper article about it.

