



BROOKFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL STEM CHALLENGE



22nd January 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

A key focus this year at Brookfield Junior School is to raise the enjoyment and attainment of our children within Science. At the beginning of Term 3, staff spent an exciting day developing their Science knowledge and skills. They took part in an array of hands-on activities, which will soon be making their way in to the classroom for children to share and enjoy.

As part of our drive towards engaging our young minds, we will be offering opportunities for children to take part in workshops run by experts. These opportunities will either be run within school or at external locations. Our first science experience will take place next week, when Year 3 will spend the day 'Rocking around Britain' with a visiting scientist. They will explore the Science topic of Rocks with Mr Berry, from Horton Kirby Education Centre.

Alongside the visits, we will be holding a STEM day next term. STEM activities require the children to use their Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics knowledge and skills together to overcome a problem. We are proud to let you know that the Mayor of Maidstone will also be attending this event to see the children in action.

To introduce the STEM concept to the children we have organised a STEM challenge which will be shared with the children on Monday 1st February. There is then an opportunity for you to come into school on Tuesday 2nd February at 2.40pm, to find out more about the challenge, collect a challenge pack and a challenge starter kit. Please be aware, the challenge starter kits will be limited and handed out on a first come, first served basis. The challenge will involve the children and their families working together to overcome a 'real life' problem and prizes will be awarded to the winning entries.

Following the STEM challenge, there will be a Science Fayre on Friday 26th February, where the children will share with you the activities they have taken part in on the STEM day and we will celebrate the success of the STEM Challenge entries. The Science Fayre will be open to visitors for the first and last hour of the school day.

Another exciting activity within our drive towards promoting Science is our link with The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). We have been fortunate to be accepted into the Rocket Seed programme, an opportunity a limited number of schools across the country have had. As I am sure many of you are aware, British astronaut – Tim Peake went into space at the end of 2015 and he will be completing many different science based experiments aboard the International Space Station. In support of his work, RHS are carrying out research to make comparisons between the growth of seeds harvested in space with those harvested on Earth. As a school, we will be growing seeds and recording data, which will be submitted to help the RHS analyse the differences.

If you wish to attend the information session on Tuesday 2nd February, to gain further information about what the STEM challenge involves and how you and your family can take part, please return the reply slip below.

Yours faithfully
Miss Prince
Science Leader



To: Miss. Prince ~ STEM Challenge Meeting

I will be in attendance at the STEM Challenge Meeting being held on Tuesday 2nd February at 2:40pm

Signed

Child's name Class

