

Centre for STEM Education

Welcome to the Centre for STEM Education newsletter

We hope you are keeping well. Here are the latest updates from the Centre for STEM Education about forthcoming opportunities for professional development in primary science and computing.

In this issue, Dr Elizabeth Nally, science subject leader and year 3 teacher at William Westley Primary School in Whittlesford shares some of the work the school have been doing in science during this period of Covid19. It is wonderful to see how the children are enjoying their science learning both at home and in school.

Sharing ideas, joining up good practice and celebrating teaching and learning in primary science



'The results were blooming marvellous!'

Strongly influenced by our beautiful grounds and the children's desire to explore, lots of the in-school science learning at William Westley this term has been outdoors. This has been a good environment for maintaining social distance while still feeling like we are working together. The children have made careful observations of the natural world and this environment has been an opportunity to use and promote the development of scientific vocabulary in context. The children have enjoyed recording their findings in a creative way, for example, we captured the optimism of spring by creating paper lilies and tulips. This approach then led on to them making beautiful, colourful flowers from throwaway materials. With a number of recycling initiatives already in place at school, the children are very much aware of their responsibility to reduce plastic waste and this activity was

identified by the children as a good way to reuse materials. I was impressed that the children have not only developed working scientifically skills but are working as responsible citizens too. The recycled flower display has produced a permanent happy reminder of the long sunny afternoons of lockdown.

The outdoors is bringing us together as a school community. As well as creating recycled flowers, the keyworker children have been especially pleased to plant over 200 sunflower seeds on behalf of all the children in school. Children at home also had the opportunity to collect a seed from school and plant out at home. So now, in these uncertain times, all the children can join together to watch their flowers grow and of course measure the height!

To find out more about the uplifting science work William Westley Primary School have been doing this term please [click on this LINK to see the full article.](#)

If you would be willing to share some of the work you have been doing in school to support science, computing or wider STEM subjects, please **get in touch** with us. In particular, we would love to hear about:

- ways in which you include parents and the wider community in children’s learning;
- projects (class or school wide) which have inspired and impacted on children’s learning;
- cross-curricular work involving STEM subjects.

Online Primary STEM Teaching and Learning Festival: 03 - 07 Nov 2020



We were disappointed to cancel our primary STEM conference back in March due to Covid19, so we are particularly excited to announce our online Primary STEM Teaching and Learning festival which will take place during the week of 3rd – 7th November.

This will be an excellent opportunity for teachers to develop their knowledge and understanding of the latest developments in science, technology (including computing), engineering and mathematics

related subjects. Our original conference theme, “**Engaging all learners through a broad and balanced STEM curriculum**”, will be a focal point for many sessions, however, there will also be the opportunity to participate in teach meets and discussions addressing current concerns and the sharing of good practice. As this festival will be online with sessions spread out across the week, you will be able to tailor the programme to suit your interests and take part in as many or as few sessions as you wish.

The fee for attending the festival, and as many sessions as you like, is £50 or £99 for fee-paying schools.

Book two members of staff from the same school and the rest of the staff go free.

[Book your place](#)

Teachers talking... about primary science

Are you a science subject leader, or teacher passionate about primary science? Then why not join our new primary science network dedicated to helping you develop science teaching and learning. Led by teachers for teachers, these topical sessions will share good practice and address current concerns throughout the autumn and spring terms.

We will be looking at:

- getting back to school and back on track;
- developing science vocabulary;
- inspiring children’s learning through hooks, awe and wonder;
- outdoor learning in science, all year round;
- continuous provision for science across the primary phase;
- useful apps to support science teaching and learning;
- strategies for promoting thinking and talking;
- exploring science in EYFS;
- linking reading and science;
- creative recording strategies.

These hour long sessions will be held online and after school (3.45-4.45pm) for ease and convenience in the autumn and spring terms.

[Book individual sessions, £10 each
or £20 for fee-paying schools](#)

[Book the whole series of 10 for
50% discount](#)

Active Bodies, Active Minds - CAS launches video series for summer

Learning computer skills doesn't always have to involve a computer - as these fun videos, launched as part of the CAS Inspire programme of events, reveal.

These videos use camouflaged learning where young people will learn everyday skills including music, sport, cooking, and gardening, while at the same time develop their IT and computational thinking skills. [Click here for the first set of videos](#)

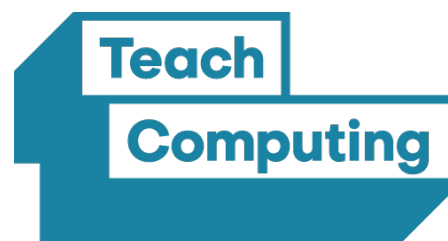
Barefoot Computing – at home

Barefoot Computing has produced a number of enjoyable activities, designed by teaching for professionals for families to do at home with the children. Most activities don't need technology and require minimal resources. Further information can be found [HERE](#)

Latest resources from the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE)

The NCCE has launched further lesson plans and resources for primary and secondary teachers of computing, which can be found [HERE](#). A series of [“Quick reads”](#) related to pedagogy have been added.

[The autumn term flyer from our link computing hub, Saffron Walden County High school, is available here.](#)



Consultancy and bespoke professional development support

Our highly regarded subject experts at the Centre for STEM Education offer a consultancy service for subject and school leaders, providing guidance and support for subject leadership, curriculum development and teaching and learning in science and computing. They can also help you identify professional development needs, provide CPD activity directly from our programme of courses, or work with you to tailor the content to meet your requirements for an affordable bespoke CPD event.

Please [get in touch](#) with us if you would like more details or to discuss your individual requirements further.

Keep well and enjoy the summer holidays. We will be in touch again in the new term. Any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Best wishes from Helen Sizer and everyone at
The Centre for STEM Education**

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University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 9AB