

Training

Yeovil Science Partnership - 2 afternoons attended. 2.11.15 and 2.2.16. The first was useful as we looked at all the different curriculums that were used between the schools, including academy 'set planning'. The general consensus was that those who freedom to plan (like Long Sutton) were able to teach more effectively. Many teachers did not like the prepared plans which were seen as prescriptive and obviously weren't tuned into what the children really needed to learn.

The second training afternoon consisted of ideas shared and resources available. A representative from Yeovil Park Education showed what they could offer. From this, Mrs Astington attended a free course focusing on upper KS2 areas of evolution. She fed back ideas and showed the free resources she was given at a staff meeting later that term.

Sadly there are no more meetings planned.

Curriculum

The awareness of Science within our school was definitely raised during the previous year and this enthusiasm has held. Science is generally taught by each class at least once a term, usually as a 'stand alone' topic. Specific subjects can be seen on the overview on the website.

Children are engaged in lessons and their enthusiasm for this subject is always clear to see. There is a clear progression of understanding and language being used across the year groups. Staff are very good at using lots of resources and making the science very 'hands on'. Investigations and conclusions are now clearly evidenced in books. Cross curricular links are made with English (report writing, instructions and explanations) and maths (data collection, graphs). It is also felt that teacher and LSA questioning is more effective as a result of the Blooms Taxonomy and training in staff meetings. This has been evidenced by the Learning walk carried out on 2.11.16 (See attached).

A great success was the second Science week. Teachers felt they had time to really teach their science subject, at greater depth. It was felt by all staff that the children's' learning benefited hugely by blocking a whole week to Science. It gave more of a momentum to the subject, resulting in many children

asking more questions, creating more investigations and having a greater depth of understanding. This has led to a good understanding of the key subjects. This also led to a whole school performance poetry session. Everyone enjoyed watching each class perform their poem linked to Science which included water, planets, aliens and sun poems.

A fantastic part of the week is the Family Fun Science evening. Many families took part in the egg challenge and it was encouraging to see the amount of families who came. Lots of the children were saying how much they enjoyed it the following day.

How Science is used in real life has also been shown to the children. Long Sutton took part in the Tim Peake Rocket seed project, growing seeds, predicting, measuring, sending off the data and seeing the results. This did cover a whole half-term where measurements and watering were undertaken daily. Also, the installation of the solar panels has led to many discussions and data has been used for maths lessons.

Displays

During late November, each class created a Science display in the school's main corridor This linked in with Science week. This again shows their learning and enjoyment of the subject.

Equipment

Our equipment is much better as many parents kindly donated items that were on our 'wish list'. The link with Huish Secondary, which means we can borrow a range of supplies, is working well.

Looking forward

Teachers have all agreed they will need to continue developing their questioning and supporting children to become independent (quadrant 4!)

The Family Fun Science night has to be a permanent, yearly fixture! We now need to try and think of ways to encourage all families to attend this event.

We were creative when we were low on resources and created a wish list asking for donations (vinegar, salt, baking soda, batteries filter paper, measuring cups etc). We must do this again when we become low on supplies as it was a really good way of getting resources.

