



Newsletter Date 16.12.20
Volume 1, Issue 1



Science at Avanti Court Primary School

THE LAUNCH OF OUR SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

We are very excited to present the first issue of our science newsletter. This will become a medium through which we can involve our school's wider community and share our children's wonderful work, science events and news on a termly basis.

OUR SCIENCE CURRICULUM

At Avanti Court Primary School, we recognise the importance of Science in every aspect of daily life. As one of the core subjects taught in Primary Schools, we give the teaching and learning of Science the prominence it requires. We use the National Curriculum throughout all the year groups to provide a structure and skill development for the science curriculum to be taught across the school. Teachers create a positive attitude to science learning within their classrooms and reinforce an expectation that all children are capable of achieving high standards in science.

Intent

Our intention when planning and delivering the science curriculum at Avanti Court Primary School is to foster and develop our pupils' curiosity in the subject, whilst also helping them to fulfil their potential. Moreover, we aim to prepare our pupils for life in an increasingly scientific and technological world. We intend learning in science to be through systematic investigations of the physical, chemical and biological aspects of their lives that rely mainly on first hand experiences, leading to them being equipped to answer scientific questions about the world around them. It is our intention that, through investigative science, pupils at Avanti Court Primary School will continue to deepen their respect for the natural world and all its phenomena, and increase their care and appreciation of it.



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Our Science Vision

Nurturing the next generation of scientists to make the world a better place.

Principles of Science at Avanti Court Primary School

Science is great at Avanti Court when:

- it is fun, rich and inspiring.
- it is enquiry-based, which fosters pupils' curiosity.
- it encourages independent learning and thinking.
- resources are purposeful to engage all learners.
- children develop a sense of curiosity, awe and wonder for the world around them.
- when learning takes place in and out of the classroom.
- it gives children the opportunity to acquire knowledge and apply it to make the world a better place.



All pupils and staff came together and collaboratively agreed on these principles that make science great at ACPS. We proudly display our Science Vision and Principles in every classroom. These principles are the foundation to every science lesson that is planned and taught at ACPS.

EYFS EXPLORING MOTHER NATURE

Children have been exploring their natural surroundings this term. They went on a nature walk around the school where they observed changes to leaves in the autumn. They were lucky to have spotted a beautiful, magical RAINBOW!

The children also observed little creatures such as worms, snails and spiders in their habitats. (See pictures on next page)



YEAR 1 LOOKING AT ANIMALS

This term, Year 1 pupils were learning about animals. They enjoyed learning about common names of some fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. They also learned that some animals can be wild and some are kept as pets. Pupils looked at environment around the school area and correctly identified animals and insects which lived around. Children were also able to understand how to take care of animals taken from our local environment and the need to return them safely after study. We also compared and contrasted some animals and grouped them according to what they eat: carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Pupils had an amazing lesson of exploring and comparing the structure of different animals! The children explored the different groups of animals and understand that most mammals have hair or fur covering their bodies and that all birds have wings and beaks. They even took a detailed look at two different types of reptiles; crocodiles and iguanas, researched their features and observed how they move through videos. The most fun part was when the children go to create a crocodile or iguana with modeling clay. Great work Year 1! (See pictures on next page)



Year 2 Tea Bag Experiment

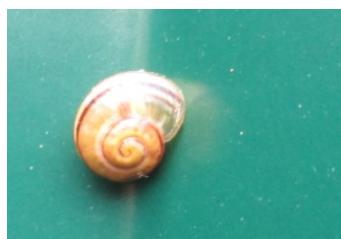
YEAR 3 AMAZING BODIES

Year 3 pupils have been learning about how to keep healthy and the importance of a balanced diet. They have started off with identifying what people need to survive and thereafter, they learned to classify food, building knowledge on how to design a balanced diet.

In addition, they had great fun learning about the human skeleton and its different parts with the help of 'Len', the Year 3 mascot!



This is Ske 'Len' Ton—the Year 3 Mascot



Discoveries made during the nature walk in EYFS

YEAR 2—MATERIALS: GOOD CHOICES

Pupils have had a fantastic time in Year 2 investigating materials and their properties. Children have had a chance to explore a range of materials and investigate their properties by testing which materials were stretchy, flexible, rigid, hard, soft, and more. They then investigated the suitability of materials, for example, they tested which material would be the most suitable for dungarees by rubbing them between stones and measuring the number of rubs before the material tore. Each child made a prediction about which material would be the most suitable and had a great time creating holes in the fabrics!

Year 2 also tested which materials would be the most suitable for a tea bag. First, the children discussed what properties a material would need to be used for a tea bag and made predictions using their knowledge. They carried out an experiment by making tea bags from a range of materials and dipping them into warm water. Children then recorded their results.

done Year 2!



Year 1 children at work making models of a crocodile or iguana



Year 1 children exploring

YEAR 4 - IN A STATE

Year 4 pupils have been learning about states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. These pictures are from a lesson where children had to prove that gas exists and can fill up empty spaces.

"I was surprised to see that the tissue inside the cup, did not get wet at all, even though the cup was completely covered with water," says a Year 4 pupil.

This was an exciting lesson indeed which filled the children with awe and wonder. There is no doubt that the children understood that the air/gas inside the cup stopped the water entering the cup.

Well done Year 4!



YEAR 5— MARVELLOUS MIXTURES

Year 5 pupils have also been having fun investigating mixtures. Along with investigations on how to separate mixtures of different solids using magnets and sieves, the children have also separated mixtures of solids and liquids! These investigations led to scientific discussions about properties of materials.

Another interesting investigation conducted by the pupils was observing how different temperatures of water affected the rate of dissolving. Pupils were able to set up their investigations and choose the right equipment to measure and record observations. What marvellous work by the Year 5 scientists!



Year 5 Separating materials



Year 5 investigating dissolving rate

Year 6— The Nature Library

And finally, our Year 6 pupils have been busy this term classifying animals, plants and micro-organisms into groups scientifically.

Pupils have demonstrated excellent observational skills and secondary resources to explain how different groups were justified.

Pupils discussed and were able to explain the importance of close observation and classification in the work of a scientist.

We are very proud of our Year 6! Future scientists in the making!



Year 6 observing non-vascular properties of moss

Useful science websites for parents and children

[Frontiers for Young Minds: Science for kids, edited by kids \(frontiersin.org\)](http://frontiersin.org)

[Home | NASA Climate Kids](http://nasa.gov)

[National Air and Space Museum | \(si.edu\)](http://si.edu)

[Science Fun at Home | Primary Science Teaching Trust \(pstt.org.uk\)](http://pstt.org.uk)

[Science for One | Primary Science Teaching Trust \(pstt.org.uk\)](http://pstt.org.uk)

[Explorify at home - Explorify \(wellcome.ac.uk\)](http://wellcome.ac.uk)