



SCIENCEOXFORD

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

# NEWS

SUMMER 2017

INSPIRING SCIENCE OUTREACH FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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## PRIMARY SCIENCE QUALITY MARK

Do you want to raise the profile of science within your school? Would you like to publicly celebrate your school's commitment to excellent primary science?

From September 2017, Science Oxford will become a hub leader for the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) in Oxfordshire. With thirty years' experience of supporting primary science and our close association with current research in effective primary science pedagogy, we are well placed to offer the support and guidance needed to help schools achieve this award. We will work with you to evaluate and develop all aspects of your science teaching through individual mentoring and our programme of teacher CPD.

*"Ofsted has recommended PSQM as an improvement mechanism for science in primary schools."*

The deadline to register for the first round is 15th September. To find out more visit AWARDS at [scienceoxford.com/schools/primary-schools](http://scienceoxford.com/schools/primary-schools)



"IT REALLY BROUGHT SCIENCE TO THE FOREFRONT OF OUR CURRICULUM AND EMPOWERED TEACHERS TO BE MORE CONFIDENT AND EXCITED ABOUT TEACHING SCIENCE"

## INTRODUCING THE NEW STEM LEGO CHALLENGE!

We are excited to be working with Headington Prep School on a new space-themed Lego challenge!

Teams of year 4 pupils from local schools will be invited to attend three half-day workshops (held at Headington Prep) where they'll get trained and kitted-up to build robotic Lego models while also learning about the Solar System.

Tasked with designing and 'launching' a space probe or rover, the young space engineers will research a chosen planet and design a model, learning how to use Lego WeDo robotics kits to program moving parts.

The first workshop – the Launchpad event - will take place during World Space Week in October 2017, the second during British Science Week 2018, and the Celebration Event in May. Teams will attend all three days and schools will be supported to continue their project work between workshops. Teams will show off their completed models and research to the other teams and local scientists at the Celebration Event.

**Places will be free but limited so if you'd like to get involved, email [sarah.townson@scienceoxford.com](mailto:sarah.townson@scienceoxford.com) to be kept up to date with the project.**



## BECOME A MEMBER

Have you considered becoming a member of Science Oxford?

For an annual fee of £75 your school can claim free kitloan, discounts on workshop bookings and free Twilight CPD.

A minimum of 10 teachers are required to run a free CPD, but we can put you in touch with other schools locally if your numbers fall below the minimum.

For more information, please call 01865 810000, email [soschools@scienceoxford.com](mailto:soschools@scienceoxford.com) or visit [www.scienceoxford.com/schools/membership](http://www.scienceoxford.com/schools/membership).

## BRING A SPARK TO SCIENCE LESSONS

Want to add a bit of a spark into your science lessons? Our experienced outreach officers deliver a range of entertaining and informative shows and workshops for all year groups. Our half-day or full day packages are designed specifically for your school and to fit with your timetable. A typical visit is a mix of our engaging hands-on workshops for a single class of up to thirty pupils at a time or an interactive show featuring live science demonstrations for audiences of 60-80 pupils.

We regularly review and update our outreach programme to reflect requests from teachers and changes to the primary curriculum. Recent additions include more provision for early years, providing cross curricular links and shows and workshops for new topic areas such as evolution and sound.

Check out the full list included with this newsletter, and at [scienceoxford.com/schools/primaryschools](http://scienceoxford.com/schools/primaryschools)

"THANK YOU FOR A FANTASTIC DAY. ALL STAFF AND CHILDREN REALLY ENJOYED YOUR SESSIONS WHICH BOUGHT THE WONDER OF SCIENCE TO LIFE."

## NEW PROGRAMMES

Thanks to input from local teachers, we have recently added a new KS2 **Sound of Science workshop** and show to our in-school offer. Available independently or as a joint offering, the workshop offers pupils a carousel of noisy activities that investigate how we make sounds. They construct their own instruments and perform together as an orchestra. The **Sound of Science show** offers an exciting consolidation and extension of the workshop but can also run as a standalone exploration on the topic of sound, culminating in a stunning visual representation of music.

**Evolution in Action** is a KS2 workshop that uses practical activities and discussion to demonstrate the concepts of survival of the fittest and natural selection.

The KS1 & 2 **Waterwheels workshop** introduces pupils to some of the renewable and non-renewable ways that we generate electricity. They design and build their own water wheels to 'tap' into one such renewable energy source. Using our custom-made 3D printed kits, pupils will work scientifically to collect data to test their designs and observe the work that can be done without the need for a power station.

## YOUR FEEDBACK

We encourage and welcome ideas on new shows and workshops from teachers so please get in touch if you have any suggestions. You can email us at [soschools@scienceoxford.com](mailto:soschools@scienceoxford.com)



## PLANETARIUM TOUR

Back by popular demand and thanks to support from Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, we are taking our planetarium show on the road again this November. Join us in the inflatable star dome for a whistle stop tour through the solar system and what to look out for in the night sky.



# NEW TWILIGHT TEACHER CPD

Following increased demand for our Twilight CPD sessions, we will be offering seven different topic areas from September.



These include three linked sessions that provide an introduction to the key concepts of **Thinking, Doing, Talking Science**.

Our CPD sessions are highly interactive and full of ideas for immediate implementation in the classroom.

Each session lasts for ninety minutes and can be run after school or as part of an INSET day for up to 25 staff.

If we have sufficient demand from schools or if you would like to arrange a session for your partnership or Academy Trust then we can work with you to organise a bespoke session.

## BOOK CPD ONLINE:

### PUPIL LED INVESTIGATIONS

Classroom techniques which encourage pupils to have more input into their science investigations. A great way to launch the Big Science Event competition in school.

### SUCCESSFUL SCIENCE CLUBS

Ideas for use in a science club, how to establish a club and how to maintain interest.

### EXCEEDING IN SCIENCE

What is "exceeding"?  
What does it look like and how can we challenge pupils to achieve it?

### THINKING, DOING, TALKING SCIENCE (1-3)

Encouraging pupil discussion;  
Meaningful practical science;  
Focussed recording.

### TO BOOK GO TO CPD AT:

[scienceoxford.com/schools/primary-schools](http://scienceoxford.com/schools/primary-schools)

TWILIGHT CPD  
FROM SEPTEMBER  
2017  
£150 PER SESSION  
OR FREE  
WITH ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP

### PRACTICAL PROGRAMMING

Ideas and activities for using Scratch in the classroom.

