

Date: 16th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Science Competition for Science Symposium Event

We have a very exciting event ahead of us: **The Virtual Science Symposium 2020**.

All children in our school are invited to enter the Science Symposium Competition by **creating a science project at home**. These projects will be showcased on our social media platform for all to view. **Winners will receive amazing scientific prizes!** This competition will be announced to children and we will be encouraging the children to carry out their project in a particular order. **The deadline for the project is Tuesday 15th December 2020.**

Step 1 – Planning

Children need to decide what it is that they wish to investigate. They need to consider why they are interested in that area, what they already know about the topic and, of course, what they wish to find out. For older children, if they are planning an experiment, they could write down what their independent variable is (what they are changing) and what their dependent variable is (what they are measuring/what they want to find out).

Below are some ideas!

- Mini-beast observations – what are their habitats? Which habitat is best? Where can they find the most food?
- Making bottle rockets – testing how to make a rocket fly the furthest
- Making a volcano – what mixtures make the largest eruption?
- Testing how micro-organisms affect different foods
- Testing shadows throughout the day/exploring the lunar cycle
- Carry out an experiment based on the unit they have been studying in class
- Exploring how to separate different mixtures
- Making lemon batteries/ potato clocks

Here are some websites to give you more ideas:

<https://www.iflscience.com/chemistry/unfinished-20-fun-science-experiments-you-can-do-home/>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/science-experiments-you-can-do-at-home-604275>

<https://owlcation.com/stem/top-10-science-experiments-to-try-at-home>

Step 2 – Carrying out the test/experiment

It would be brilliant if you could take lots of pictures of your child carrying out their experiment in order for anyone who views their project can see all the steps involved. Alternatively, their experiment can be filmed.

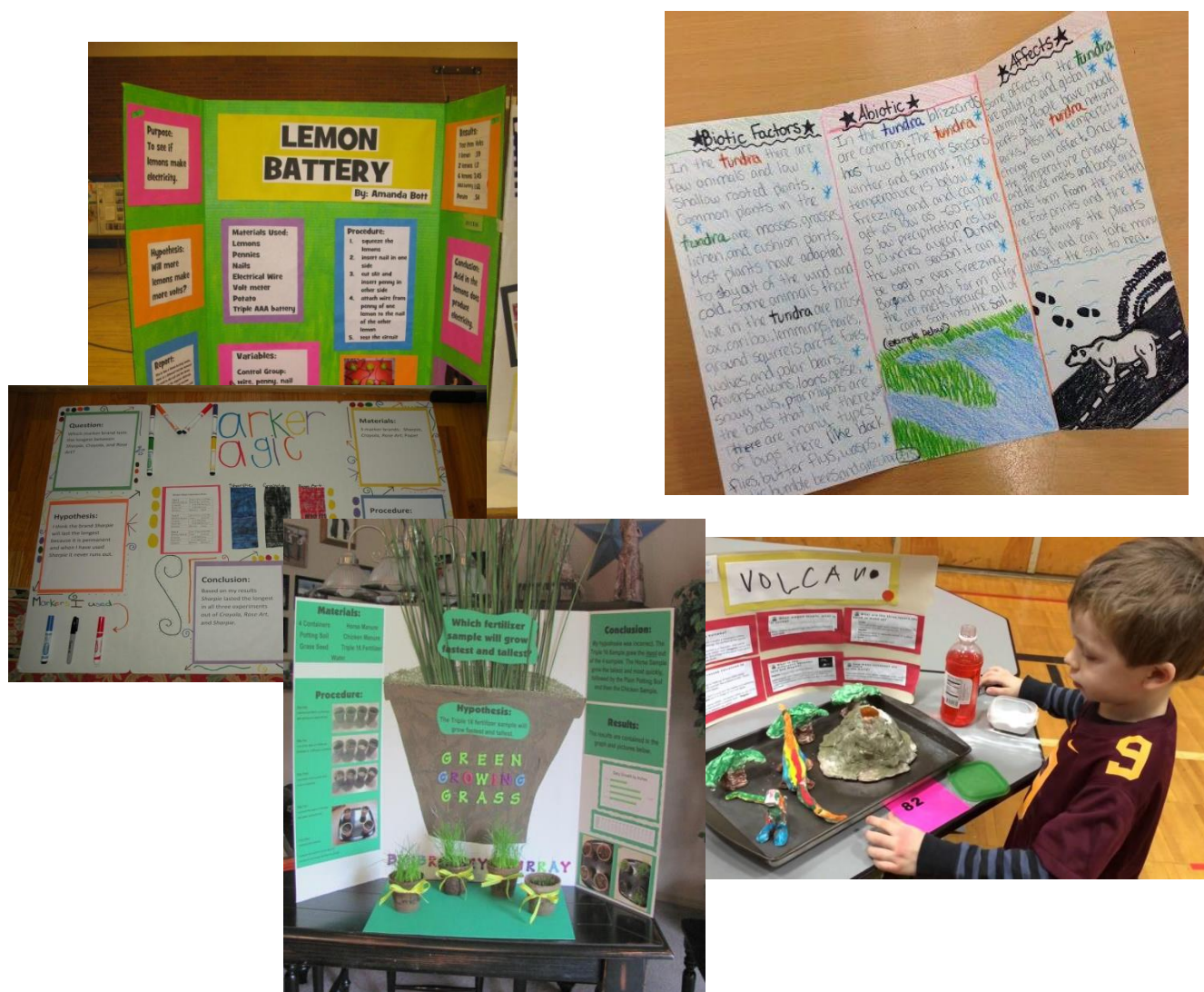
The children can also be recording what they find out, what they observe and what the results are.

Step 3 – Conclusions

For the final part of the project, we would like children to present what they found out from their experiments. They could produce a results table, graph or simply an explanation of what happened and, importantly, why it happened. It could also be a video recording in which children explain their findings.

Once all three steps have been completed, children can then put their project together. This can be done in a number of ways: they could create a booklet, create a poster, have images stuck down with explanations of each step or a video recording of the whole process.

Here are some images of what the final project might look like:



All projects will need to be photographed or filmed ready and uploaded onto your child's Google Classroom. If you have opted out for your child to be featured in photographs or videos that are shared on our social media platform, please could you ensure that the recording only features the project.

For video entries, please also include photographs with a brief description of the project.

To upload, go to classroom.google.com and log in with your child's username and password (please contact the office if you are unsure of this).

Go into the 'classwork' area and find the Virtual Science Symposium assignment. Click the plus sign to upload your project.

Kind regards,

Mrs Morris
(Science Lead)