



Barley Hill Primary School

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Barley Hill Science Week February 19th – 23rd 2007 Be a Science Detective



Dear Parents,

After many weeks of planning we are very much looking forward to the next of our Barley Hill special weeks which will be held straight after the February holiday. This letter gives you details of our science week activities and how you can be involved. The title of our week is 'Be a Science Detective' and the focus will be on helping all the children to learn how to carry out scientific investigations.

Our Aim: *To raise the level of children's understanding of an investigative approach to scientific discovery and to deepen their scientific knowledge and skills.*

Key Activities:

- Each year group is planning a series of exciting science investigations for the week using as much first-hand experience as possible.
- These will include opportunities for using I.C.T.(computers), data handling and lots of active research by the children.
- To encourage all the children to develop good skills of scientific enquiry appropriate to their age they will each have a science detective achievement card on which to collect special stickers for their investigations during the week.
- Each year group will be holding one special session when parents will be invited in to take part in an investigation with their children. Advance warning of the time is given at the end of this letter.

P.T.O.

Special Events



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Healthy Schools NCSL Networked Learning Communities
OXFORDSHIRE

Information for Parents

- There will be a presentation by the eco-park roadshow at our whole school assembly on the Monday.
- The ‘Animal Man’ will be visiting on Tuesday and all year groups will see him during one of the day’s three sessions.
- The observatory dome, a travelling space exploration experience, will be in school on Thursday and Friday and all KS2 classes will have a session visiting it.
- A science knowledge quiz will be set up for each year group. 20 age appropriate questions will be devised and the answers will be found in clues available in their year group area and on their year group website during the week.
- A special competition will be run. Details are still being finalised.

The visiting attractions and extra resources for the week will be costing the school about £1500. We are receiving a grant from an educational trust fund for £500 and the P.T.A. are kindly purchasing some special data logging software for us for £480. We would like to invite you to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of £1 per child or £2 for a family with two or more children. If you are able to make this contribution it will greatly help us.

Macmillan ‘Cancertalk’ & Coffee Morning

I am sure that most of you will have heard about the Macmillan charity who provide valuable support to families when someone has cancer. Macmillan have produced some excellent resources especially for schools called ‘Cancertalk’. The aim is to help children understand more about what cancer is and how it affects people and to help children and young people express their feelings about it. We are planning to use these materials in P.S.H.E. circle time sessions with the children during science week. I am very aware of the sensitivities of this subject for all of us, particularly when some staff and school families are directly affected at the moment. I hope you agree that this is a very good reason for talking with the children and helping them to talk about it. I led an introductory assembly on this last Monday as 22nd – 26th January was the national week for the programme but we will use our science week to follow this up. If you would like to see some of the materials that we will be using, log on the Macmillan website at www.macmillan.org.uk/cancertalk .

The P.T.A. have agreed to organise a coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan charity and this will be held in the studio on the morning of Thursday 22nd February so please put the date in your diary. If you are able to bring cakes or biscuits for the morning we would be delighted!

Mr Mayling and Ms Williams, our science co-ordinators, have been working hard with the staff preparing for the science week. I am sure that it will be a great educational and fun experience for all the children. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely,

John Hulett, Headteacher.

Come and join in a science investigation with your children. Here are the dates and times for each year group.

Foundation Stage:	Tuesday & Thursday (20 th & 22 nd) 9-10.30a.m.
Year 1	Thursday (22 nd) 1.45-3.00p.m. (porridge tasting)
Year 2	Thursday (22 nd) 9.15-10.30a.m.
Year 3	Thursday (22 nd) 1.45-3.10p.m. (Children and parents asked to dress as supersleuths!)
Year 4	Thursday (22 nd) 1.45-3.10p.m.
Year 5	Tuesday (20 th) 9.00-10.30a.m.
Year 6	Wednesday (21 st) 1.45-3.10p.m.

Macmillan Coffee Morning in Studio 9-11.00a.m. Thursday 22nd.

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