



Science Grant Scheme Update

This scheme is now open to 250 schools in Lancashire.

To date, 115 schools have received 1 or 2 grants.

The Edina Trust Science Grant Scheme has been progressing well in Lancashire, with 80 schools applying for grants for a variety of activities this school year.

Almost half of those schools applying for their first grant have been ordering equipment to update their science resources and help make science more exciting and hands-on for pupils.

Schools in the region have organised science weeks to inspire pupils and engage those from all ages in practical, fun investigations to find out what science is all about. These science weeks have included:- pupil-parent science challenges, where parents and children get the chance to work together to solve problems; science fairs, where pupils brought in their own experiments; and opportunities for older pupils to teach the younger ones about what they have learnt.

Alston Lane Primary School based their science week on 'Earth and Environment' with each class choosing a topic that linked in with the theme, such as plants, growing and adaptation. During this week one class hatched chicks (from happychicks.co.uk), which became a focus for other classes to learn about the life cycle of chickens and other animals. This led on to work on food chains and activities on the environment. The children used design and technology skills to create incubators to keep the chicks warm; learning about insulators, an activity from the Primary Upd8 website. They also made a 'Bug Hotel' in the eco garden. This linked in with their eco green flag aims and created a haven for bugs and wildlife to shelter and find food.

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Examples of:

Science Week topics:

- Earth and Environment
- Developing Observation
- Eco-schools
- Hands-on science

Our website

www.edinatrust.org.uk

includes:

- More information on projects that schools have planned with their Edina Trust Grant, and
- Other resources for planning your own science event.
- [Request an application form](#) (or any other queries)
- [Tips on applying for a grant](#)

For any further help applying please contact:

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Science visits, both to and from schools, have included Adrian Bowden's Travelling Science Show, the Rainforest Roadshow, and Barn Owl Bill all to schools, as well as talks on the environment and recycling. Children visited Eureka!, the Maritime Museum and made local trips for pond-dipping and to engineering works.

Trips/Visiting speakers that schools have used:

- Timber saw mill
- University
- Police
- Chef
- Bird Sanctuary
- Dance Company

New gardening resources available

- **Royal Horticultural Society**
www.rhs.org.uk
RHS campaign for all schools to have a garden, and upon free registration, they will provide each school with a free start up kit, free seeds every year, newsletters and rewards for progress.
- **Grow your own Potatoes**
www.potatoesforschools.org.uk
'Grow your own Potatoes' is a project that teaches primary school children about potatoes. Schools can register to receive a free potato growing kit. The website also offers teacher resources such as lesson plans and worksheets, as well as links to the curriculum and healthy eating advice.
- **The Woodland Trust**
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
The Woodland Trust is offering 'Free Trees for Schools' for Autumn 2011. Schools can register to receive a free 'edible trees pack' containing 30 saplings.

Remember:

The Science Grant Scheme will run in Lancashire for 3 years (with lucky pilot schools receiving the chance of a grant for 4 years)

