St Mary's C of E Junior School Newsletter

Care. Believe. Succeed.

'All things are possible for one who believes.'

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

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Curriculum & Enrichment

Science / DT engineering week

As a school, we took part in the 'If you were an Engineer what would you do?' Leaders Award competition.

The competition aims to challenge students from primary and secondary schools to identify a problem and design a creative solution to it. Over the course of the week, children discovered what engineers do, designed a solution to their problem and wrote a letter about how to use their creation.

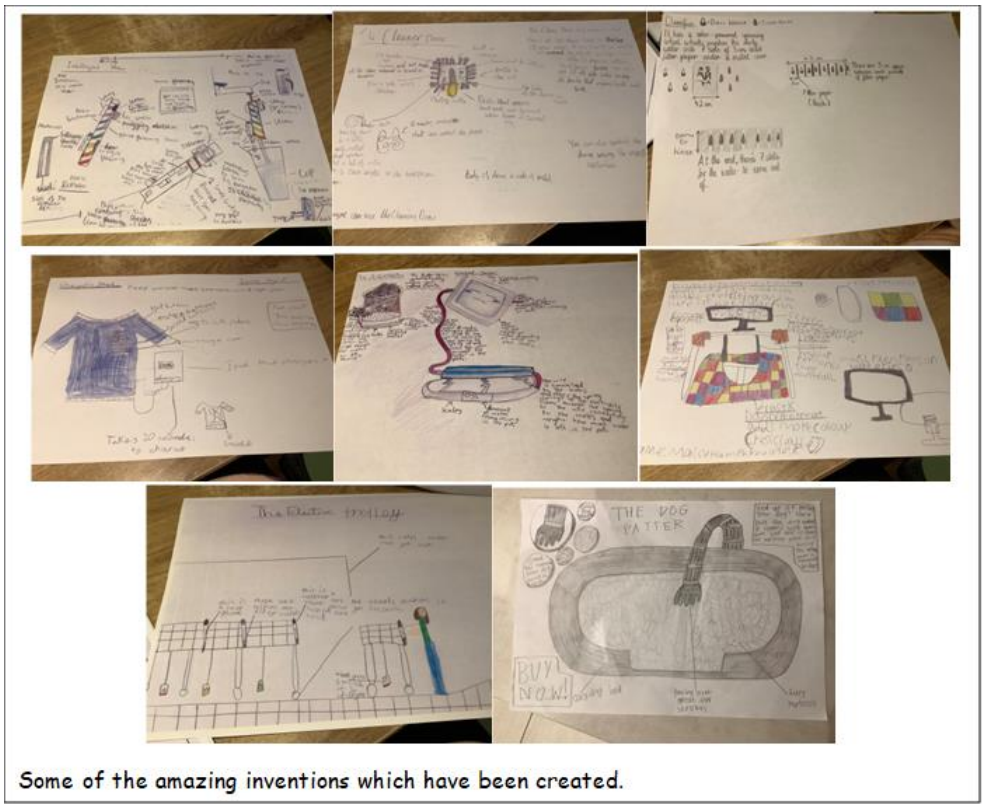
Each entry will be graded by an engineer and shortlisted entries will be put forward to a panel where the best ideas will be celebrated at an awards event.

One extraordinary part of the competition is that every year, university teams choose one idea from the shortlisted entries to build!

The week was enjoyed by all, and we were so impressed with the range of creations produced.

We look forward to seeing if we have any winning entries.

Mrs Simmons and Mrs Bowden



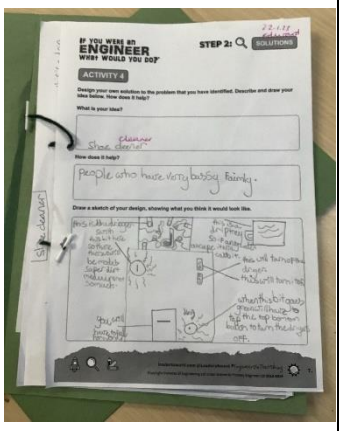
Some of the amazing inventions which have been created.

School Reporters

Our School Reporters have also been busy writing about their engineering inventions and collecting the views of children in their class to find out what they enjoyed about Engineering Week.

Ava- Y6 *My invention is to help blind people when they are clothes shopping. The invention scan the clothing tag and you press a big button so that a voice then tells you the size of the item and the price. I came up with this idea because my Nana is blind and I noticed that she always has to ask someone to help and they sometimes get it wrong!*

Oscar Y6 *Noah's idea is inventing a pair of robotic hands that guide your own hands to teach you how to tie your shoe laces.*



Millie Y3 *We met a Lego designer called James. We had to design an invention of our own and write a letter to the company to explain our idea and draw the design of it.*

Reuben Y4 *My design is for a robot that will look after your pets whilst you are away on holiday.*

Tia Y4 *My invention is a unique soft play area for disabled people – it is inclusive so that they don't feel left out.*

Ellie-Anne Y4 *Mrs Hinchliff made the lessons fun and we were able to design things that could help people around the world.*

Year 5 trip to the Natural History Museum, London

Our Year 5 children had a wonderful time on Friday 24th January at the Natural History Museum. They took part in an engineering workshop with professionals who design Martian Rovers for space exploration.

Children worked in small teams to design and build a LEGO Martian rover. They then coded, tested and evaluated their designs before seeing how their rovers performed on a realistic Martian surface.

Year 5 children also discovered the importance of space exploration, how Museum scientists are actively involved and why using models such as LEGO is important for engineers.

The children also then got to explore the whole museum to see all the wonderful exhibitions. Our children did us proud with their outstanding behaviour and curious questioning!

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

On Friday 24th January, St Mary's Junior School participated in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. By taking part, we have helped the RSPB to monitor how birds are doing in the face of the climate crisis. Over the course of an hour, children from each year group observed and spotted birds within our school grounds. We saw magpies, pigeons, blackbirds, robins, blue tits and coal tits. Our results were then submitted to the RSPB.

Mrs Simmons

Sporting Successes

Celebration time for both our Year 5/6 girls and boys Indoor athletics teams this week as they both qualified from their heats to make the District Final! Our children showed fantastic technique and speed in their field and running events, coming out in 1st in numerous events. They all showed incredible support to one another and we are all really proud of them.

Children's Mental Health Week 2025

Next week, across the school, we will be marking Children's Mental Health week 2025. The theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. Throughout the week, the children will take part in activities around this theme, including participating in a yoga session run by Happy Little Yogi. Some of the resources we will be looking at include the characters from the film Inside Out 2. You may want to watch this film before next week, so they have an awareness of the characters, but it is not vital to do so! We hope the children will have an enjoyable week and learn a little more about themselves.

Mrs Hinchliff

Attachments with this newsletter:

- SUPPORTINGCHILDREN'S MENTALHEALTH 10 Conversation Starters for Parents
- Social Media and Mental Health

Spring Term 2025

INSET DAY: Monday 6th January 2025

February Half Term: 17th February to 21st February 2025

Easter Holidays: 7th April to 22nd April 2025 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***

Summer Term 2025

INSET DAY: 22nd April 2025

MAY BANK HOLIDAY: 5th May 2025

Spring Half Term: 26th May to 31st May 2025

INSET DAY: Monday 2nd June 2025

Summer Term Ends: 23rd July 2025 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***

Summer Holidays: 24th July to 2nd September 2025