

SEEDS Project

The idea of the SEEDS project (Sustainable Educational Environmental Developmental Sessions) is that it is a science club designed for six Y5 pupils to run (often at lunch time) for twelve pupils in Y2. It's a really exciting project as it not only promotes science within primary schools, but is also sustainable as the Y5 pupils will ultimately train the younger children to run the club for later cohorts of Y2 children.

SEEDs provides the resources, plans and most associated equipment for 30 different sessions bar a few photocopies and perishable items. The resources come in large crates which ultimately the Y5 children are responsible for. The sessions are designed to be short, fun and practical. The aims of the sessions are to encourage children to think in a scientific way, ask questions and communicate their observations and ideas. The Y5 children take it in turns to take on different roles such as Club Secretary, presenter or Technician.

Steve Smythe of SetNet (The Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics Network) has very kindly funded a Network of 5 Hackney schools who can now set up and run a SEEDS science club. SetNet is a UK-wide charity that promotes Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) awareness, especially among young people and one of Steve's many roles involving promoting science education within primary schools.

Steve not only funded the project through SetNet but also liaised with his colleague Martin Wesley from Sphere Science who came to Tyssen school to train 5 schools in the programme and provide them with the materials they will need to run the project within their schools. The initial groups of schools who were selected for the SEEDS Project were Tyssen, Southwold, Kingsmead, Brooke and Gayhurst. These schools were trained on the 20th June and will hopefully be setting up their clubs in the Autumn term. We're looking forward to their feedback at the Science forum in November.

The demand for the programme was very high, but we are hoping to locate additional funding to provide further networks in the Autumn term. For more information about SetNet or Sphere Science please see their websites:-

<http://www.setnet.org.uk/>

<http://www.spherescience.co.uk/>

Please see below for some quotes from the Training day and some photos of the children, trainers and teachers enjoying themselves.



"I'm excited about running the Seeds club but feel a bit scared at the same time! I'm looking forward to helping the Year 2 with their science work."

Samarah, age 9,
Tyssen Community Primary School

"I am really nervous because I've never spoken to the young children before, but I think it will be marvellous and a really good experience."

Junior, age 8,
Tyssen Community Primary School

"I think that the Seeds project is really exciting. The idea of peer-teaching really appeals to the children. Not only will the six explainers have to work well together as a team but they will enhance their leadership skills and become role-models for the Year 2's."

Debbie Brown,
Science Coordinator,
Tyssen Community Primary School



"It's a fantastic opportunity for the children to be more involved with supporting other children. I'm really excited and looking forward to running this project in Southwold Primary School."

David James,
Science Coordinator,
Southwold Primary School

"I was really excited when I opened the box because it had loads of scientific things in it. I'm looking forward to being the technician so I can prepare things, do demonstrations and help the Year 2's."

Kebba, age 10,
Southwold Primary School

"I'm glad Mr James chose me to run the club because I get to help the Year 2's and my brother is in year 2. I thought the equipment was fantastic and all the kids can get a good education using it all."

William, age 9,
Southwold Primary School

"I'm really excited because I've always wanted to teach people science because I find it really interesting because I like mixing chemicals together and watching them blow up. I've even got a chemistry set at home. I'm shocked at how fantastic the equipment is. I can't believe I get to run my own club. The trainers are excellent and really helpful because they've explained how we do the club. I feel confident I can run the club really well."

Zachary, age 10,
Kingsmead Primary School

"First the Headteacher and Liza came to the classroom and were looking for people who were good at Science. Liza gave me a science postcard home because she thought I was really good at science. Lisa and the Headteacher told us we were chosen. I felt really happy because I actually really wanted to teach the Year 2. Science is my favourite subject because you get to learn things and do experiments. I think the equipment is really interesting – some of it looks really unusual. It's really good because Year 2 learn more science."

Silan, age 10,
Kingsmead Primary School

The SEEDs club is a brilliant idea, giving the Year 5 pupils a challenge and responsibility to work as part of a team. They will enjoy taking turns in the jobs given. I will support this during lunchtimes as it fits well with my role.

Learning Mentor
Kingsmead Primary School

