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We had our special STEM Day on Tuesday. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The children were given four challenges and worked in groups throughout the day. We had a fantastic day, the children worked brilliantly together to investigate ideas and solve problems.

The four challenges were: can you keep a teddy dry crossing the water? Especially if it rains. The children investigated what floats, what materials and design would be best for a boat and what materials are truly waterproof.

We also got out our Makey Makey and made a banana piano. The children investigated what else would work as an input for this – we found out that people work (hands and faces but not hair), as does most metal and fruit. Plastics, paper and cardboard did not work. The main surprise for the children was the fact that our writing pencils worked (through the lead) but not our drawing pencils! The older children made the link to electricity and conductivity.



Mrs Turner did the classic egg drop challenge for the older children. Can you use materials to protect an egg falling from a height onto the yard? The younger children made links to Humpty Dumpty falling off a wall.

Mrs Strangeways challenged the children to build the tallest strong and stable structures using different materials with different groups. The children were inspired by the Tokyo Tower which we had seen earlier as part of our learning theme of Asia. There were some very tall art straw structures taken home on Tuesday – well done everyone!

Lowick's Christmas Lights

Christmas tree lights in Lowick will be switched on on Friday December 3rd, starting at 6pm outside the church with carols. People can then walk down to the Village Hall where the tree lights there will be switched on also. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served inside the hall, followed by a quiz.



Weather warnings

Now the weather has turned much colder please make sure children have warm clothing for school and warm coats for play times.

If we have particularly bad weather and need to close the school we will put a notice on the first page of our website, a post on the school Facebook page and staff will endeavour to ring round. There will also be alerts on the Northumberland county website and we will inform Radio Borders.



Online safety

We have been working with the children to help them be safe online. The older children have accessed the Thinkuknow website which has an interactive game about keeping safe and making good choices when online. The Thinkuknow website is very helpful and also has a parents section as well as sections for children by age. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>



The younger children have been thinking about keeping safe through the Smartie the Penguin resources from Childnet. <https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin>

Spellings

Year 1: **Plurals—Adding 's' to words**

Eg cats, dogs, spends, rocks

Year 2: **sound spelt 'y' at the end of words**

Eg cry, fly, reply

Year 3: **Suffix exceptions if the word ends with 'le' is changed to 'ly'**

Eg gently, simply, humbly

Year 4: **The suffix 'ous' rule if the word ends in 'g' sound, we keep the final 'e' then add 'ous'**

Eg courage-courageous, outrage-outrageous

Sad news

You will have noticed that Mrs Stiansen has been off school this week. Very sadly her father was taken ill and died. She is currently on compassionate leave and will come back into school when she is ready. We are sure you will join us in sending her our love and sympathy at this sad time.

Eco Club News

This week for Eco-Schools we started to think about Christmas, and some things about it that are not 'sustainable'. We watched an advert about food waste and thought about ways we could lessen how much food we waste at Christmas; such as saving it in the fridge or freezer, or simply cooking less. We thought about the repercussions of food waste and how when food rots it gives off Greenhouse Gases.



We then turned our attention to packaging, and trying to avoid buying lots and lots of toys we don't need which are come wrapped in lots of plastic. We talked about using recycled paper and making sure the wrapping paper we use doesn't 'bounce back' when we scrunch it up, as this means it has a high plastic content. We eventually decided that avoiding it altogether was the best option and looked at a tradition from Japan called Furoshiki, where people wrap gifts in pretty pieces of fabric, and decorate them with flowers and leaves. The children watched a tutorial and had an excellent try using scarves.

Next week we will make some of our own wrapping paper using kraft paper and fabric.

Miss Easten