

# CHELMSFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL SHARING SUCCESS

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EDITION 16

Aspris Children's  
Services

## STEM Week

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February was our STEM week in school. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and so all of our lessons were themed around these topics. This week gave the students the opportunity to try many different practical activities such as building towers, coding Lego and learning about density. The students loved the activities and engaged really well with everything offered.

## Wild Science

One of our favourite visitors on the ward is Wild Science. Wild Science gives the young people an opportunity to hold many animals they may not have had the chance to hold before and learn all about them. This time, the animals the students were able to hold were a millipede, a snake, a gecko, an African land snail, a hamster and a frog. Malcolm (the leopard Gecko) has visited the ward a few times before but is still the most popular animal to hold. The most unique animal to hold was the millipede. The movement across the young people's hand felt like they were being tickled.

## Essex Rocks

There were some more brilliant visitors this month to the school. Essex Rocks are a local group of geologists who came to the ward to share with everyone the story of Essex through rocks. They brought in a variety of rocks ranging from slate found 430 million years ago, rocks from 300m (as tall as The Shard) down into the ground up to the soil found at the top. The students were able to touch the rocks, shells, shark teeth and fossils.

## AMAZING FACTS

- 50% of Fairtrade is co-owned by farmers and workers
- There are over 6000 Fairtrade products available to buy in UK shops
- Fairtrade labelling began in the 1980s



## STEM Activities

During STEM week, the lessons included lots of activities based on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. One of these sessions included building the tallest tower from paper and masking tape. This required the young people to think about what was the strongest structure and how they would be able to support the height of the tower. The young people worked in a team and used lots of their communication and problem solving skills. Alongside the theme of engineering, the young people also had the opportunity to try building Lego and K'Nex models. They were able to follow instructions to build things such as motor bikes and windmills. With the Lego building, they also were able to use the iPads to code the motors to make the models follow particular paths and move to the music. For Science lessons, the students were able to make their very own lava lamps. They were also able to learn about density by making rainbows from water, food colouring and sugar. The young people presented their work beautifully and engaged incredibly well.

## Coffee Morning

For one of the STEM sessions, the students worked in small groups to construct protective boxes for an egg. The plan was to drop an egg from a great height but—by only using things from the home—they had to make sure that the egg didn't break. The young people wanted as many people as possible to be present for the final egg drop so they held a coffee morning to invite people to watch. At the coffee morning were lots of biscuits and variety of hot drinks for people to pick from. There were also STEM quizzes that people could take part in. Finally, at the end of the coffee morning, we dropped the eggs and none of them broke! Even though the young people considered different solutions to the problem, all of them were successful. It was smashing!

## Fairtrade

For the last week in February, the young people learned about the importance of Fair trade. Fairtrade's aim is to make sure that farmers and workers are paid fairly for the products that they produce. The purchaser will pay slightly more for their products but it is more ethical and makes sure that the farmers are able to do things like send their children to school or feed their families. In class, the students looked at different chocolate bars and tried to figure out how much each costs by considering whether they are Fairtrade or not. Once they had figured out how much they cost they then did a blind taste test to see if the chocolate tasted any different. This then led to discussions about how valuable Fairtrade is to people across the globe.

## Chinese New Year

Saturday 10th February was Chinese New Year and this year is the year of the dragon. People who were born in 1988, 2000 and 2012 are also all born in the year of the dragon and it represents good luck, power and strength. In lessons, the students were learning about the story of Chinese New Year and participated in sequencing tasks that told the story of the Great Race. The students also created lots of beautiful art-work and decorations to celebrate. These were placed around the ward and the school. One student was even able to teach the teachers how to write the Chinese symbol for each animal zodiac.

