The use of model making for recording Science

Dame Bradbury’s School
Summary of Content

Models are a really innovative and effective way of getting children to record their work and this school use the technique for assessment purposes too.

It has inspired pupils and their parents alike!
What the school says

At Dame Bradbury’s we have experimented with model making as a learning and recording strategy - a method that differentiates by outcome, but is fully accessible to all children.

An advantage for less able writers is that writing can be minimal, and more unusual labelling methods can be employed as the children choose.
Y5 children modelled the structure of the ear using plasticene. They used whiteboard pens directly onto the Science tables to label their models. The children were delighted to be allowed to draw on the tables and they talked about the activity extensively after the lesson.
The Skeleton (Y4)

Following our work in class on the skeleton, year 4 were asked to make a model skeleton at home. This has enthused and engaged parents and other family members into a collaborative project.
Y4 homework project

Y4 children made model skeletons at home. They had to research and choose their skeleton, materials and labelling method.

The models were displayed at school and the children self assessed their work.
I used: pipe cleaners and card and Pody Skypere. I am proud of my model because I labeled it carefully and I used my pipe cleaners well.
The impact for our school was ..... 

The Y4 project was on display for the school open day – it engendered a great deal of discussion between guides (children) and visitors. The children were proud of their work and the process.
I will continue to explore and trial different methods of model making in Science as I have seen the benefit to the children in learning structure and function with these activities. It is very accessible to lower achievers.