How we communicate, share and celebrate our science
Burford School have developed some effective ways of celebrating science learning which are shown in this exemplar.

Particularly interesting is the homework learning log where children are given tasks and problems to solve at home. Parents have been very positive in supporting learning.
What the school says

We wanted to raise the profile and quality of science within our school and to show that science is valued as a subject by making sure we celebrate the good science that is already happening.

We have used display boards throughout the school, class science assemblies, learning log tasks, competitions and ensured we involve parents wherever possible.
We use interactive displays to celebrate science.

A science display board in the front entrance is updated regularly and shows that science is valued as a subject featuring ‘Science in the News’ or an ‘Amazing Science Fact of the Week’.

Post-it notes promote questions and answers.

Clip on vocabulary words can be taken down during the lessons to help with writing.

Real objects are linked to real scientists.

Year 6 questions at the beginning of the lesson. Children love sticking up their ideas on the interactive board. As the topic progresses they see how their ideas and understanding change compared to the beginning of the topic.

Children in Y4 recorded classroom temperature at different times of the day.

A science display board in the front entrance is updated regularly and shows that science is valued as a subject featuring ‘Science in the News’ or an ‘Amazing Science Fact of the Week’.
This display board has a prominent position in the school entrance. The nature of the display has changed over the last two years from being simply a celebration of good work to one that gives facts and shows everyone what is going on in the school in science, such as science clubs. The school’s principles of science teaching are displayed and hopefully the display has an impact on parents and children in exciting them and informing them about the science that goes on at Burford. It is regularly changed and updated.
This year, parents were invited to help during the school Science Days. The children enjoyed having the opportunity to share their learning with their parents. We will now continue to invite parents into school during Science Days.

Year 3 child
‘I really enjoyed having my dad in for the day as when I went home I could talk about the Science Days and my dad also knew everything that had happened’

I was impressed by how well the children got on with tasks - organising themselves, sharing, focussing, listening .... great to see!
A database of parents has now been created. These parents are willing to come in to school to participate in Science lessons and to talk about their own careers in the field of Science. This enables children to meet ‘real’ scientists.

In Year 6, children compete in a Dragon’s Den style activity. Parents from the Science Database were invited into school to participate as judges for the final of the Dragon’s Den competition.

In EYFS, the children had a visit and talk from a midwife and a doctor, both of whom are parents at the school.

A parent who is an osteopath came into school during National Back Week to show the children how to correctly carry their rucksack and the best sleeping position. She also talked about how to bend to pick up heavier items.

In Year 3, the children were visited by a parent who is a dental nurse. She was able to bring many items into the classroom and gave a knowledgeable talk about how to look after your teeth.

This year we are running Science Clubs for Year 5/6, 3/4 and Y1/2 each week after school for 1 hour.
Positive Minus Interesting

Y3 child ‘I like it because you get time to think and to get ideas off of other people.’

‘I like it because you only have to write notes and you have time to rest and to think.’ Yr 3

Staff now use this communication technique in other curriculum areas such as Geography, History and Literacy.

‘I like that when you do it you can work with a partner and you are not working on your own.’ Yr 3
Homework Learning Logs

Learning logs enable parents to become involved in their children’s science learning.

Cleapps competition
For learning log homework, children were asked to make a model of a sycamore seed. Best entries were presented in an assembly and entered in the competition.
In history, children have been learning about the last 6 decades under Queen Elizabeth II. Groups of pupils each chose a scientific invention from a different decade and had to pitch it to a panel of ‘scientific’ parents in ‘Dragon’s Den ‘ style.
The impact for our school was ..... 

The profile of science continues to be raised within school and home.

Learning log tasks have allowed children to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a variety of ways and enabled parents to also take part in their learning process.

Three class assemblies have also been based around Science this year, allowing both parents who come to watch the assemblies and the children to see how science is valued.
Science Subject Leaders Comments

For us as science co-ordinators, this year has been a huge challenge. We have learnt a lot from our experiences of presenting at the Buckinghamshire network science meetings and have made contacts with local science co-ordinators.

We will now be able to build on these relationships and be able to help each other with resources, clubs, planning etc.
In April for the Cleapss competition we will be asking all children in the school to make a model of a sycamore seed for homework. The best entries will then be presented in assembly and entered into the competition.

We will be starting a “Forest School” soon which will take place in the newly created forest school area in the woodland of the school.