

### **To all teaching staff – Family Learning in Science project**

We have secured some funding for a family learning in science project at HHJS. This initiative will develop and trial resources for family learning sessions in science. Children will be able to come to school with a parent, and learn science together through a problem solving activity. The opportunity will be offered to all families.

#### **Objectives – this project aims to:**

- Create positive shared learning experiences in science for children and their parents
- Empower parents to support better their child's learning
- Enable children and their parents to become better learners, identifying what they have learned and why this is useful
- Break down individual children's barriers to learning
- Develop parents' understanding of the breadth of possibilities open to their child and how their child can achieve their aspirations
- Provide an opportunity to support pupil premium children and their families
- Help families appreciate the value of science in the world today

#### **Outcomes**

- Families see learning together as a positive experience, that has benefits for everyone
- Children develop as learners through experiencing a different approach to science
- Children consolidate their own learning by helping their parents, e.g. with ICT in science
- Parents develop a more secure understanding of some science concepts and skills
- Parents develop a better understanding of how their child is learning science at school
- Parents are more aware of effective strategies to support particular strengths and difficulties their child may have
- An improved performance of disadvantaged pupils compared with their peers
- Families develop positive attitudes to the place of science in society

## How will it work?

Family learning in science will happen on Saturdays. Four Saturdays are planned, two in the spring term (1<sup>st</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> March ) and two in the summer term (26<sup>th</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> June). Two sessions of two and a half hours will run on each of the Saturdays, with a session accommodating up to thirty children, each with one parent. The afternoon session will be a repeat of the morning one. Families will start in the hall and be given a scenario/ problem to solve. They will then 'visit' different rooms to collect the evidence they need. There will be four rooms, each manned by a member of teaching staff who will guide the investigation for that room. A plenary at the end will give the opportunity to share findings and to discuss what science has been learned – knowledge and skills.

## Staffing

For the project to run successfully, four teaching staff will be needed for each session. Staff will be paid £200 per Saturday, paid as supply duties/extra hours. If you are interested in being involved, you will need to commit to two Saturdays in the same term as the science content of the sessions will be the same. If you would like to do all four Saturdays, that is possible. We also have funding for supply cover for a day's preparation before the spring term sessions and then another preparation day before the summer term sessions. There should be no need for any other preparatory work outside of this day. The experience should provide a really good opportunity for some science CPD for you. The spring term sessions will be based on solving a mystery or 'crime' and outdoor learning will form the basis of the summer term sessions.

I'm hoping that this could be something that develops into a model we can share with other schools – it ought to be really exciting, so please do give it some serious thought. If you are interested in being involved, please complete and detach the form below and return to my pigeon hole, ideally by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Note that at this point you are only registering your interest and available dates, not making a definite commitment. Any questions please ask (you can e-mail me or ring – YYYY).

Thank you,

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### **Family Learning in Science project - Initial register of interest by teaching staff**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

YES	NO	
		I am available for both Saturdays in the spring term (DATES)
		I am available for both Saturdays in the summer term (DATES)

please tick boxes as appropriate, detach and return to Ali's pigeon hole in staff room – thank you!