



# SHARING EDUCATION



*'Forward Together with Tolerance and Respect'*

This is the fourth of a termly newsletter designed to keep our Parents and Community informed about the actions Dromore Road PS and St. Bronagh's PS are taking to develop Shared Education.

## **STEM AND ACTIVE LEARNING**

St Bronagh's PS and Dromore Road PS have already begun this year's Shared Education journey. Our joint focus this year will be STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Active Learning. Children are very curious and are keen to explore their natural environment. The activities planned for this year seek to promote and develop these skills. Active learning aims to engage children in their learning making it a more relevant, enjoyable and motivational experience.

## **Overview of Shared Classes 2018-19**

Again this year we hope to involve every child in both schools in Shared Education. The table below outlines the proposed timetable for Shared Education classes, this timetable may be subject to change.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
St Bronagh's PS	P5 P7	P2 P4 P6	P1 P3
Dromore Rd PS	P4/5 P6/7	P4/5 P5/6 P6/7	P2/3 P1/2

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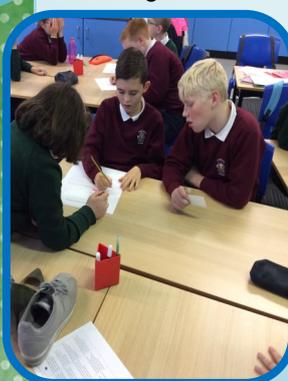
**Designers of the future!**

P6/7 from Dromore Road and P7 from St Bronagh's worked together to design and create a shoe/boot for a specific client. A high level of collaboration was evident as they worked in groups experimenting with the best way to join materials and finalising the design of their creation.

Throughout the activity the children developed thinking skills alongside their skills in technology.

To conclude the set of lessons all groups evaluated how well they worked together and modelled their completed creation.

In their post lesson evaluations the children stated that they had enjoyed this set of lessons and requested that similar STEM related activities could form their Shared Education lessons in the future.



**P4/5 and P5 discover Castles**



For our first meeting the children from P4/5 at Dromore Road PS and the P5 children from St Bronagh's PS travelled to Carrickfergus Castle. Children split into two mixed groups and were accompanied through the castle by a guide. We were looking at castle defence features and exploring what life would have been like living in a castle. Children really enjoyed interacting with each other in an informal manner and in a neutral setting.

Back at school we discussed and experimented using different types of forces. The children were then put in to groups and were given the challenge of making a working bow and arrow by selecting appropriate materials from a range available. We ended by testing our weapons and discussing what materials worked best. We also thought about the force used in order to make our bow and arrow work.

For our final lesson together the children conducted the tennis ball experiment to demonstrate that the shape of an object determines speed, rather than its weight. In this lesson, the children once again worked in small groups. Their challenge this time was to make a working catapult, then test which ammunition went furthest, from a selection of resources available. Again we finished by sharing our findings and discussing if every group had the same results. We thought about fair testing and what modifications we could make in order to improve our catapults. Finally we rated our group according to how we worked together.



**The staff from both schools would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year in 2019.**