

LWS ROLLS-ROYCE BLOG: JANUARY

January, the start of a new year and new projects for us! This month we said a fond farewell to where our STEM project house all started, we officially moved out of the original house and sadly said goodbye to all the hard work that we put in over the year. Looking to the positive - the community group that will be using it now will have a fit for purpose area that is in much better condition than it once was.

Science (Charlotte Hurst)

This month we have looked at lots of different scientific theories and concepts whilst completing our DIY projects at the hub. A conversation around tiling and why you need to grooved notches in adhesive for air escape when you apply pressure led to a variety of questions and experiments about air and water pressure. Students were able to link the theories with trips from last term including the upthrust of water/ weight of boat being linked to trips to Portsmouth Historic Dockyards; and air resistance when skydiving and how it affected our movement in the wind tunnels at airkicks indoor skydiving.



We are also planning our summer vegetable garden with the building of our vegetable and herb planters. Some students have also planned what to plant and where in our garden depending on the time of year they will grow best, the sun position and harvest times.

STEM (Donna Page)

This month has been a month of planning – mainly due to the weather - we have looked at the projects that we will complete over the next 3 months. We will be starting some exciting engineering projects including building a pizza oven and rocket stove. Project Garage will start up where we will be investigating and learning about mechanics by getting hands on with a car and a motorbike. Our most exciting long term project is also being planned for the next year of STEM- Project House Build; this will be an huge project where we are planning to build a house on the back of a trailer using the skills we have developed over the last year.

So far this January we have done lots of little projects inspired by things we have been planning and doing at the hub. We had a whole school skating trip that sparked lots of discussion around friction, momentum and Newtons Third Law.



We also have been discussing the amount of wastage in house construction – The main school site is in the middle of a new housing estate and the students have been discussing the amount of wood that is discarded by the developer. Students and Mr Saunders then approached the site manager who has agreed that we can have their ‘scrap wood’ for our projects. The amount we have had already has saved us hundreds of pounds – we just have to cut it down to transport it!

We have not had any community visits this month so one of our new student support assistants Miss Warner is this months profile.

Miss Warner – Learning Support Assistant

I have been at LWS for a term and have been coming to the community hub with groups of boys since the start of this term. The Hub is a great learning environment for our students, they learn a variety of skills, not just science but maths, food technology, art, engineering as well as a variety of life and social skills. I love the variety of things we could be doing; one session this week I have helped build a robotic arm with one of our children who has autism; his project was primarily about painting, but he did not want to touch the paint so he has built a robotic arm to hold a paintbrush. On another session I was helping to build a garden planter that a student had designed, he was so proud being able to take his idea from design through to the making stage.

