SSERC support for Primary Science

As the new term starts we thought it might be a good time to remind everyone of the opportunities and services provided by SSERC. As a service shared by all Local Authorities in Scotland, SSERC provides support for teachers and technicians in a variety of areas including the SSERC website, SSERC publications, Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) opportunities and health and safety advice.

The primary section of the SSERC website www.sserc.org.uk is currently under development, with updated information on health and safety for primary science and technology activities due to become available in the next few weeks. More changes to the SSERC website are planned with additional resources becoming accessible soon. Some materials are available without logging in to the website but to access the full range of resources you will need to use your login details. If you don’t currently have a valid user name and password then please contact us at STS@sserc.org.uk.

SSERC publications, including bulletins, are distributed to schools via each Local Authority and are also available on-line - with the most recent bulletins only available by logging in to the SSERC website using your username and password.

“...I found the whole course extremely useful. I loved trying out all the workshops and am looking forward to trying these out in my classroom, and sharing them with staff."

CLPL provision continues to be an important part of our work and we are pleased to offer exciting professional development opportunities for teachers in 2016/17. We have variety of courses on offer this session aimed at supporting primary teachers in the delivery of Science, Technology and STEM subjects. Courses take the form of single day events, residential courses and twilight CLPL sessions, the latter in the form of SSERC_Meets. SSERC_Meets enable SSERC to deliver high quality, interactive science and technology

“...Great fun getting to design and make a model just like the children do."

CLPL directly to teachers in school using our innovative “cookalong” format. Once registered on the course resource boxes are sent out to schools and staff join us as we guide participants through a series of activities in real time, offering help and support to those taking part.
Our residential courses - Supporting STEM and Primary Summer School are funded through an ENTHUSE award (administered through the National Stem Learning Centre) this means that the course costs, including resources, accommodation and meals, are received by the school on completion of the course. The “beginner’s guide to pneumatics and hydraulics” article in this bulletin has been adapted from a workshop at the 2-part, 4-day Supporting STEM course, for more details access the link [1].

Comments from delegates on last year’s course can be found throughout this article.

More information and booking forms for our courses can be found on the SSERC website or you can fill out an application form on one of our flyers.

SSERC also provides health and safety advice to teachers and technicians so if you have queries about any aspect of science

“Thank you again, I have really enjoyed my time at SSERC, and am going away motivated and enthusiastic about the next part of my STEM journey.”

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References

This document provides advice on designing your own research and analysing results. The challenges of getting evidence based practice accepted to become part of everyday practice in education are considered.

In his foreword to Evidence Based Education, Ken Muir (Chief Executive of The General Teaching Council for Scotland) makes the following observation:

Evidence Based Education reminds us that all education research should have a purpose and provide evidence for teachers taking decisions that will lead to improvement in practice and/or outcomes for learners.