This week's home learning looks a little different as we are celebrating British Science Week. Here are some suggested activities you can try at home.

Monday

Wavy wax painting

Instructions:

1. Make a collection of broken wax crayons. Ask the children to separate them into colours.
2. Using the wax crayons pieces, ask the children to draw shapes on a sheet of A3 paper – sugar paper or cartridge paper is best. Use a different colour for each shape.
3. Crush the wax crayon pieces – put each colour into a separate plastic bag and bash with a rolling pin of a pestle until you have a bag or coloured wax 'crumbs' (this is a job best done by the adult). Empty the wax crumbs into bowls.
4. The children should then sprinkle the crumbs on their drawings, filling in the shapes with the right colour
5. Melt the wax. Either leave the drawings in a warm, sunny spot or on a warm radiator and wait for the wax to melt and soften, or place a piece of greaseproof paper over each drawing, and gently heat the drawings with a hairdryer until the wax melts. (Adults will need to do this.)
6. When the wax melts slightly, the children can use glue spreaders and brushes to make marks in the wax. As the wax starts to solidify they can warm their paper again and watch what happens.

Think and talk about

Where could we leave our pictures to melt the wax? How does the wax change when it gets warm? What does it do on the paper? What happens if the colours run into each other?

Tuesday

Flitter jars

Instructions:

1. Let children choose a jar and fill it with water. Pop the lid on until they have decided what flitter to add.
2. Give children time to explore the shiny glittery bits to add to the jar. Encourage them to observe as the glitter is added. Small amounts of flitter produce much clearer results than shovelfuls of shiny pieces!
3. Let them try the jars with clear water first. Add a few drops of food colour to enliven the concoction. Screw the lid on tightly.
4. Give time to enjoy tipping the jar back and forth repeatedly to watch the movement of the flitter. Compare the movements caused by a big shake, a little shake, and just tipping the jar.
5. Shine a torch through the moving liquid and allow the shadows and colours to fall onto a piece of white paper behind the jar.

Think and talk about

Where could we leave our pictures to melt the wax? How does the wax change when it gets warm? What does it do on the paper? What happens if the colours run into each other?

Wednesday

Ice gardens

Think and talk about

Look closely at your ice garden – what can you see? Which of these are flowers/ leaves/fruit? How do you know? Are all plants safe to pick? Where would you like to go to choose your samples?

Instructions:
1.For this activity, it is a good starting point to show the children 'one that I made earlier'. This helps them to visualise what their own garden could include. Put some interesting natural objects in the bottom of a tray. Pour in a shallow layer of water to float the objects and then place in the freezer. When it is frozen, add more water and freeze again.
2. As each child selects their samples, discuss differences and similarities between the flowers, fruits and leaves – consider colour, size, shape, number of petals, seeds, etc. Practice counting, or graph making, by observing how many different leaves or flowers are used.
3. Label the trays with each child's name or their bubble group. Add a shallow layer of water to their tray. Children will see the contents float on top of the liquid – discuss the problem of how to get the leaves and flowers inside the ice.
4. Place the trays in the freezer for a couple of hours and show the results. They may now see that they can put a second layer of water over the contents and freeze it again.
5. Give children time to observe the ice gardens as they melt.

Thursday

Crunchy architecture you can eat

Instructions:
1. Make the edible cement by melting some small pieces of chocolate in a 'bain marie' (a bowl on top of a pan of boiling water) or microwave. (An adult should do this.)
2. Use the melted chocolate like glue. When the chocolate goes hard, it will stick the biscuits together.
3. Make some edible biscuit buildings with multiple floors or even a roof! With chocolate stick biscuits you can build thin shapes. Pile up wafers like wooden blocks. Build a strong floor by sticking together two layers of rich tea biscuits. Construct strong posts by filling a biscuit hole with chococement and sticking in a round wafer. Thin crackers make good, strong roofs.
4. When you get bored, pretend to be a giant and eat your biscuit buildings.

Think and talk about What did you build? What shapes of biscuits/ crackers/wafers are good for the roof? Floors? Why did you use this biscuit for this part of your building?

Friday

Make a water purifier

Instructions:
1.Discuss with the children how they use clean water in their daily lives.
2. Now make some dirty water. Take two containers and fill both with tap water. Add soil, sand or mud to both containers. Use one container with dirty water to filter and keep the other to compare at the end.
3. Put the top half of the bottle upside down into the bottom half.
4. Begin by placing a layer in the bottle with cloth, cotton wool or kitchen roll. Then layer with smaller things, like sand and pebbles.
5. Pour your dirty water into the bottle.
6. Watch what happens.

Think and talk about What happened to the dirty water when it came out? Does the water that comes out look cleaner? Where did the dirt go? Compare the purified water with the other glass of dirty water.