



It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to this special edition of *Primary Science* themed around 'leading change'.

In a change to our normal 'Focus on...' piece, which is a collation of thoughts from the Editorial Board on the theme of the issue, because of the 'special' nature of this issue we have taken on guest writers.

So what is 'special' about this issue? Regular readers will see all the usual features, including one that has been reinstated in response to readers' requests. What makes this issue 'special' is that it has been delivered to every primary school in the UK and includes an eight-page supplement to give us the space we need to share with you how the Association for Science Education (ASE) is 'leading change' in primary science.

As it continues its long history of supporting science, both in the classroom and at Government policy level, the ASE has been influential in shaping the new curriculum about to be introduced in England, especially the 'Working Scientifically' programme of study. The ASE has worked hard at ensuring that primary science remains enquiry-led, practical and engaging, and is now using the collective expertise within its membership to translate that curriculum into inspiring teaching and learning, while continuing to represent the interests of members and of science education at the highest levels. At a time when support and guidance can be costly, the ASE offers a strong and supportive community for all those involved in science education, where members can engage at different levels depending on their needs and experience.

It can be a lonely job being the science subject leader in a busy primary school, with other subjects and priorities competing for your time and attention. Being part of the largest subject association in the UK ensures that you are never isolated, that you are instead part of a vibrant community of like-minded professionals, who want to make sure that the children you teach, and the colleagues you lead, have access to the best possible science education in the primary years. Being a primary member of the ASE is a bit like being science subject leader in a primary school: we think our bit is the most important, we have the most fun (but don't tell secondary colleagues that!) and we know that we make a difference.

The ASE provides opportunities for networking and developing skills in leadership and professional development. Its events have much in common with a good science lesson: always enjoyable and you learn a lot. These events range from local face-to-face 'Teachmeets' and other activities, through to regional and national conferences and to virtual meetings, via *Facebook*, *Pinterest* and *Twitter* (including #ASEchat every Monday evening between 8pm and 9pm). Being a member of ASE doesn't stop when the school day ends! There are many opportunities to share ideas and enthusiasm for science with colleagues from neighbouring schools, local

providers and national figures, including the people who write your favourite ASE books and articles.

By becoming involved in the local and national committees, you have the opportunity to help in the planning of these events. Not only that, but your voice can be heard

in the shaping of policies and bringing ideas to fruition. These committees are where you as a member can make a difference to your Association, while gaining valuable experience and contacts. 'Leading change' through discussion with colleagues is incredibly important to ASE and providing these opportunities is key to you leading successful change.

Sometimes there is a need for more than 'talk'. This is where other aspects of ASE can support you and your colleagues in school to grow and develop. For instance, publications such as *Education in Science*, the highly respected and informative ASE 'house' journal, and, of course, *Primary Science*, can be invaluable in keeping you informed and giving you the opportunity to share your ideas with colleagues. There are a range of other resources for support as well, including very popular books, such as *Be safe!* and *Making sense of primary science investigations* and the more recent *It's not fair – or is it?* (published jointly with Millgate House), and teaching resources such as *Primary upd8*, which provide guidance on safe and high-quality primary science. Members, of course, are entitled to discounts on all of the ASE's publications and those from some other publishers too!

Whatever stage you are at in your education career, and whatever your subject background, the ASE has something to offer you and you have something to offer the ASE.

So, enjoy this special issue of *Primary Science* and experience being part of the ASE. Share it with your colleagues and then renew or take up membership of the ASE. You can even enjoy a taster of our flagship benefit by subscribing to *Primary Science* for one year only (see the enclosed supplement for details). Use the ASE to help you lead change in your school and you will be joining an influential and welcoming organisation.

We look forward to meeting you at an ASE event soon.

ASE Primary Science Committee and the Chair Trio of ASE (Pete Robinson, ASE Chair; Christine Harrison, Chair-Elect; and Liz Lawrence, Immediate-Past Chair)





Calling all minibeast enthusiasts



It's not too late! You have until 20 June to get your entries in for the **Great Bug Hunt 2014** competition!

Find out more about the smaller wildlife in a habitat near you, draw or photograph them,



record your findings and then send them off! See www.thegreatbughunt.com/Home_Page.php

And if you are really into insects why

not follow this up by doing something in **National Insect Week** (23 to 29 June). See <http://nationalinsectweek.co.uk/about/overview.htm>



Want to go even further? Your pupils can be part of a real research project by taking part in the **The Big Bumblebee**

Discovery. See <http://jointhepod.org/experiment-zone>

For other ideas and competitions – not necessarily related to bugs! – check out: www.schoolscience.co.uk/competitions



Have you registered your school to take part in the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) award programme yet? Ofsted recommend it as the best way to raise the profile of science in your school.

Heads praise it because it is a cost-effective way to improve science teaching and learning. Teachers find the year-long process enjoyable and hugely beneficial and, most importantly, children just love doing more science! Registration for round 9 is now open, so go to www.psqm.org.uk and register your interest. It is the first step to an exciting year of primary science development (perfect timing with the new National Curriculum in England too!) and a future where the profile of science in your school will soar.



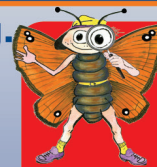
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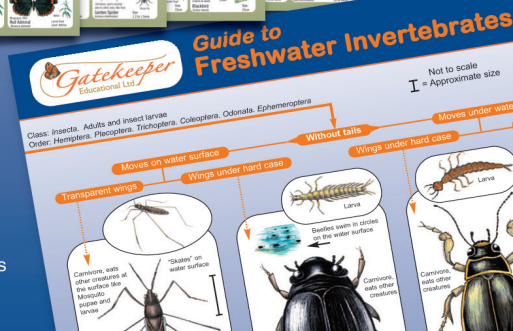
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