



From 6-8 June 2019, the Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT) welcomed well over 400 delegates to its second international Primary Science Education Conference (PSEC)

Delegates came from across the UK and around the globe, including New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria, USA and many European countries. Over 100 workshops, seminars and presentations were led by world-class teachers, academics and educationalists, alongside three outstanding keynote speakers: Jim Al-Khalili, Laura Schulz and Kate Bellingham.

Over three packed and exciting days at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, PSEC 2019 offered a varied and carefully chosen programme of the very best in professional development for primary science. Organised around a range of themes, our programme enabled every delegate to select sessions particular to their areas of

interest and curriculum needs. The dynamic exhibition hall hosted a range of exhibitors as well as lunchtime practical Pick and Mix sessions, which, alongside some lively social events, were integral to the PSEC 2019 delegate experience.

All PSEC 2019 programme presenters were invited to share their contributions more widely by writing for this PSEC special issue of Primary Science. This excellent collection of articles is a great window onto what was a superb conference, giving just a flavour of the different opportunities that were presented to delegates.

Contributors come from countries ranging from Scotland to Australia, and each article is a presentation of tried and tested methods that we hope can be replicated in your schools and settings.

The articles cover a variety of themes, including:

- **pedagogical approaches and strategies:** Moore outlines dialogic approaches; James explains how using video playback can support peer assessment; Trew *et al* consider the value of using real science research; and Farrer and Tyler explore the use of images to develop scientific understanding;
- **teaching science in exciting contexts:** Turford *et al* outline their development and use of the Polar Explorer Cookbook;

Eames links science with Premier League Football; Barrow and Bishop bring together Aboriginal and modern scientific knowledge;

- **ideas for teaching particular concepts:** Deller offers ideas on teaching evolution; Riggs shares her work on ocean literacy; and
- **practical suggestions for developing working scientifically skills:** Trew and Skerry discuss the use of floorbooks; Forsey shares her 'What's in My Tray?' activities.

Many of these highlight new PSTT resources, exploring the background of how they were created and developed for best impact, as well as top tips on how to use them. There is also an *Ideas to share in the staffroom* section based around the Practical Pick & Mix sessions at PSEC.

Guest editors:
Kate Redhead and Alison Eley

Disclaimer

PSTT is not liable for the actions or activities of any reader or anyone else who uses the information in this journal. PSTT assumes no liability with regard to injuries or damage to property that may occur as a result of using the information contained in this issue.

Safety

*Reasonable care has been taken to ensure that articles in the journal do not suggest practices that might be dangerous, and safety warnings are given where appropriate. However, the Association for Science Education has not tested the activities suggested and can therefore give no guarantee of safety. For further advice on health and safety matters in primary science education, see *Be Safe! Health and Safety in School Science and Technology for teachers of 3- to 12-year-olds* (4th edn, ASE, 2011).*

The PSTT Children's Conference at PSEC

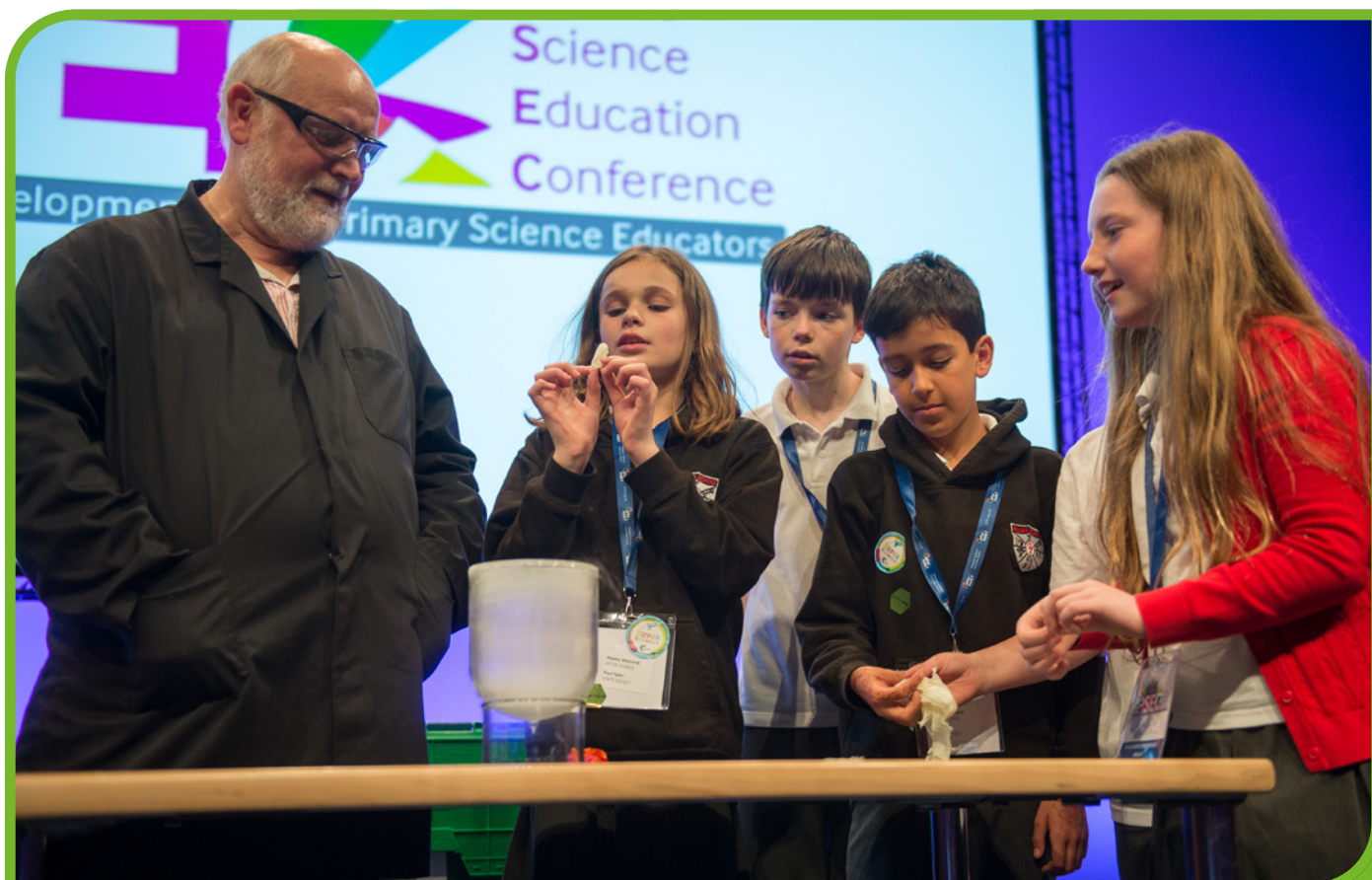
During the Friday of the Conference, we were delighted to welcome children from 15 primary schools to the first PSTT Children's Conference.

The focus of the conference was Climate Change and, as well as attending a keynote speech, children shared their own climate change projects with each other over the course of the day. All children talked confidently and enthusiastically to each other, and to PSEC delegates who took a wealth of ideas back to their own settings.

In preparation for this event, schools were able to access a climate change pack to support work in school. This could be used by all schools that registered, not only those who attended on the day. During the last year, over 200 schools across the UK and beyond carried out a climate change project using ideas presented in PSTT's climate change pack ([see pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/childrens-conference](http://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/childrens-conference)).



The children loved the inflatable whale from Incredible Oceans



The children's conference ended with a fantastic science show provided by Tim Harrison from Bristol Chemlabs

Primary Science Education Conference – Edinburgh 2019

These pictures give a flavour of the variety and quality of everything on offer at PSEC. For more details please visit our **conference website** or download the **conference handbook**.

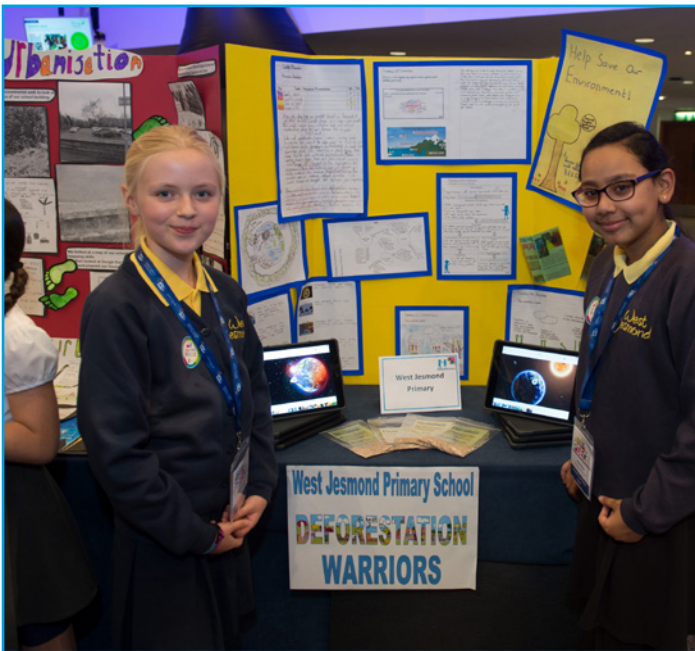
If you would like to be kept informed about plans for any future PSECs or to join our mailing list, please visit the **Primary Science Teaching Trust** website.



“I have come away with so much to share and build on back at school, with teachers and TAs, as well as with teaching friends further afield and within my local cluster group.”

“An amazing three days – full of positivity and opportunity.”





“ I didn’t realise how much was out there to help and support science teachers. ”

“ The whole conference was outstanding – probably the best CPD I have ever had. ”

