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British Science Week is an annual ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths in which schools, community groups and the public can take part.

Each year, the British Science Association offers grants of up to £700 for schools to hold activities during British Science Week. The Kick Start grants scheme, which has been running for over five years, is a great way for schools to get involved if faced with tight budgets and limited resources. It offers an extra pot of funding to help make British Science Week even more special for students.

Three types of Kick Start grants are available for schools in challenging circumstances that meet one or more of the following criteria: more than 30% of students eligible for pupil premium or the equivalent measure in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; more than 30% of pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds; or are a small school based in a remote or rural location. KICK START GRANTS stories from 2020

The grants available include:

- Kick Start Youth grant of £150 for school activities organised by students
- Kick Start grant of £300 for school-organised activities
- Kick Start More grant of £700 for school activities involving the local community.

To help you submit an application for the Kick Start grants, we have gathered three case studies from schools that received funding in 2020. We hope that their British Science Week story will inspire you to take part in the biggest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths in the UK.

To find out more about the grants and how to apply, visit <u>https://</u> www.britishscienceweek.org/ about-us/grants/

Case study 1 Cuckoo Hall Academy

Cuckoo Hall Academy is a large four-form entry school in Edmonton, North London. The school is in the top 20% of the most deprived areas in the UK and has many children who have English as a second language.

The Cuckoo Hall team used their British Science Week 2020 Kick Start grant to run a series of activities tailored for each year group – from Reception to Year 6 – where students were encouraged to investigate and study the British Science Week theme of 'Our Diverse Planet'.

What activities did the school run?

Year 1 developed a health and wellbeing project based on the question: 'What's the impact of exercise on your mind and body?' The students ran science experiments and investigations using plasticine to mimic muscles, and to prove and disprove their hypotheses about pulse rates. The Week culminated in a student-led yoga video and an exhibition of the children's posters.

Year 2 developed a project on one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals: 'Zero hunger and no poverty'. They ran experiments that explored the digestive system and nutrition, plus designed their own fruit and vegetable smoothie, which they sold in the playground to raise money for a food charity.

Year 4 students developed a project on another Sustainable Development Goal: 'Responsible consumption and production'. They investigated water surface tension using soap and answered the question: 'Why do we need to use soap to clean our hands?', something very relevant for the current times. They visited Tesco and explored how to reduce plastic packaging. As a final outcome the students presented and sold new natural soap and sustainable packaging to help raise funds for a sustainable palm oil company.

How did the British Science Week funding help?

British Science Week created a buzz around the school with staff and pupils really excited to learn and celebrate all things science.

One teacher said: "The funding enabled us to come off the set timetable for the week and to concentrate on science, and how it interlinks with all subjects.

"The enthusiasm for science week next year and to deliver a science club throughout the year are really positive outcomes of our funding – the whole school wants to be involved next year."

What advice do you have for applicants?

- Plan, plan, plan...
- Use all your staff knowledge and connections – we had staff with relatives who worked in science industries from CSI to sports science and links to athletes and natural beauty and cosmetic industries.
- Take this opportunity to do science differently.

Top tips

KICK START GRANTS stories from 2020

- Running a session at the end of the week to work towards – a poster presentation, a fundraising event or a video call – really helped bring it together and kept the students engaged throughout.
- Partnering and working with local organisations could be a way of boosting your project – this could even be done remotely without a class trip or school visitor.
- Setting a theme was a great way of engaging the students with the topic

 they really got a lot out of the Week that way!

to be involved next

Case study 2 Chislet Church of England Primary School

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Chislet Church of England Primary School is a small rural village school with just 102 students and four classes – EYFS, KS1, lower KS2 and upper KS2. But with a very large catchment area due to its location, its student base has a wide range of sociodemographics.

The school's team used its 2020 British Science Week Kick Start grant to run a series of handson activities where families and children worked and learned together.

think or other projects...

What activities did the school run?

Ahead of British Science Week, the school asked parents to bring in any materials or objects that could be used to recycle and make planters for a range of vegetables.

During the Week the children discussed waste and recycling behaviours, and why so many people throw things away without thinking about how these could be reused for other purposes. They explored what types of planters would be needed to plant different types of vegetables. They tested materials throughout the Week, culminating in an event where the children and parents created different planters to form a community vegetable garden, as well as looking at the different types of seeds and bulbs to plant.

How did the British Science Week funding help?

The idea for the project stemmed from the students wanting to do more recycling at school. It made families more aware of our society's 'throw-away' behaviours and made them think about how we can reuse some of the items we no longer need.

The project also showed children that there were many ways of solving the same problem and that there are many successful hypotheses that can be adapted to create a positive outcome.

One teacher added: "This has inspired us to think of other projects we can do within our individual topic areas to not only meet the science requirements but also to encourage the children's enthusiasm and bring skills and techniques into a modern curriculum."

What advice do you have for applicants?

- Give plenty of notice to parents and be specific about what it is that you want to achieve.
- Make sure you have a wide range of material ready for the projects.
- Have contingency plans!

Top tips

- Science-led outdoor nature activities could be carried out by students and their families at home and later showcased digitally.
- Always have a contingency plan! Many conditions change and it is important that you are as ready as can be.

Case study 3 Ysgol Penmaes

Ysgol Penmaes in the Brecon Beacons in Wales provides specialist education for pupils aged 3–19 with a wide range of learning difficulties.

The school team used its 2020 British Science Week Kick Start grant to run a series of initiatives encouraging students to explore the British Science Week theme of 'Our Diverse Planet'.

What activities did the school run?

Ysgol Penmaes organised a whole school science day to start British Science Week. They introduced the theme of 'Our Diverse Planet' through a video clip and a poster competition, plus explained what would be happening throughout the Week.

Students and staff could take part in a carousel of different activities. As the school caters for students with a range of needs and ages, they selected a variety of activities from each of the British Science Week activity packs.

Altogether there were 17 activities on offer – some of which were run in the classrooms and the rest in different areas around the school.

There was no set timetable for the day which meant that pupils could spend as long as they wanted on the various activities – working individually or in groups – helping develop their curiosity and investigative skills. By removing the time constraints of the normal timetable, students and staff were given the freedom to explore as much as they wanted, without feeling pressured to move on to the next task.

The school included a sensory aspect to the activities where possible, so they could be accessible for all of the students.

How did British Science Week funding help?

The funding gave the school an opportunity to raise awareness of science and to showcase the resources available for staff and students.

One of the great outcomes of the whole school event was that some staff then used the resources to carry out follow-up work in class during the rest of British Science Week.

One of the teachers said: "Information about the day was shared with parents via our Facebook page and posters displayed around school for staff, pupils and visitors. British Science Week was included in our whole school collaborative planning for the Spring Term. Each half term there is a whole school theme, so we ensured that the theme 'Our Environment' coincided with British Science Week."

"British Science Week was included in our whole school collaborative planning..." ere Oecide on what type of activity you

- want to hold if possible send out questionnaires to find out what pupils and staff would prefer.
- Ask for staff and parent volunteers and set up a working group to spread the workload.

What advice do you have for applicants?

- Take time to familiarise yourself with the activity packs and choose activities suitable to pupils in your school setting. Don't limit activities to the ones you think students can do, include some of the trickier ones, you'll be surprised!
- Consider having a 'demo' piece of equipment for pupils to see the set up more easily. One teacher included a simplified instruction sheet, with 'widgit symbols' for quick reference.
- Colour code activities to show links to different areas of science and technology.

Top tips

- Use of the activity packs and ideas available on the British Science Week website – there are lots of great resources to help get you started.
- An online poster competition or science club is a great way for students to get involved in a remote setting.

KICK START GRANTS stories from 2020

Tips for your application

The type of activity you run is up to you and depends on your school's needs and resources. We will assess the applications against the priorities below. You do not need to meet all of these, but your application should demonstrate clearly which ones your activity will address.

We tend to prioritise activities which:

- Involve children supported by pupil premium, from ethnic minorities or with special educational needs
- Involve children who wouldn't normally choose to participate in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) activities
- Challenge stereotypes about science, and link it to the children's everyday life beyond school
- Are cross-curricular and involve teachers, professionals or organisations from outside STEM
- Raise awareness of the diverse range of careers that studying STEM subjects can lead to
- Impact on STEM activities throughout the year e.g. staff CPD or launching a new STEM initiative in your school.

If you have any questions about the Kick Start grant scheme or want to find out if you are eligible, please visit <u>https://www.britishscienceweek.</u> org/about-us/grants/





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