



e-Newsletter 44

Our newsletter provides a quick update on the latest developments and events in STEM from around the country.

Programme Updates

SFI Discover Science and Maths Award

Online application for registering your school's intention to apply for a Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Award is now closed. Thank you to all schools who have registered so far! Once again, we are delighted to see the huge interest in the Awards programme from schools nationwide and are very excited to review each school's Log of Evidence.

By now, you should have received an email outlining submission details and your school's unique Awards number. If this is not the case, please get in contact and we will be sure to help!

Don't forget that the closing date for receipt of Log Books is Monday, 25th April. Check out http://www.primaryscience.ie/awards_steps.php to make sure your school has met all the necessary criteria before submitting.

If your school has not yet applied and intends to submit a Log of Evidence, please contact Carol Cooney immediately on 01 607 3202.

School Profiles

Read about how [St Teresa's Primary School](#) in Balbriggan took an inclusive approach to achieving a certificate of STEM in their first year of participation in the SFI Awards of Science and Maths. Building on their success, the whole school is now working towards the Plaque of Excellence in STEM.

Looking for inspiration for the awards? [Read the profiles](#) of some of the inspirational schools who have achieved nine SFI Discover Science and Maths Awards and are working towards their tenth!

Science Rising

Ireland is a nation where curious minds live, learn and discover. Known as the land of famous writers, actors and musicians, Ireland is also home to esteemed inventors, explorers, scientists and leaders. Together we shape the future.

Science is part of our past, a past that is often overlooked, an immense part of our present and it is key to our success. There is endless potential still to be realised. The growing impact of Irish scientific achievement will make a difference in people's lives, support industry investment, future proof our skill base and involve everyone in the potential of science and innovation.

We will continue to question, imagine, collaborate, discover, answer and create. We will make a difference to Irish society and our economy. More importantly we will make a difference to humankind.

Science Rising is a Science Foundation Ireland campaign that creates the connection for industry and individuals with science and innovation in Ireland. Find out more at <http://scienceringing.sfi.ie/>



ESERO Ireland



Using space to teach science through enquiry

We are delighted to announce that The European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO) Ireland, and Discover Primary Science & Maths is offering places for teachers on a 5-day professional development course at five unique space related locations across Ireland from 4th to 8th of July.

The course '**Using space to teach science through enquiry**' explores teaching approaches that develop numeracy skills in an integrated way across the curriculum, specifically through Science and Geography, with an emphasis on the theme of Space. The focus will be on inquiry based learning and how to use the "DPSM/ESERO Framework of Inquiry". Participants will qualify for 3 EPV days for full attendance.

Reserve your place now by applying online at these locations:

Dunsink Observatory – Co. Dublin

July 4th to 8th 2016

Course Number: 510

Book on-line at Blackrock Education Centre

www.esero.ie/upcoming-workshop

Birr Castle Observatory – Co. Offaly

July 4th to 8th 2016

Course Number: 511

Book on-line at Laois Education Centre

www.esero.ie/upcoming-workshop

CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory – Co. Cork

July 4th to 8th 2016

Course Number: 512

Book on-line at Cork Education Centre

www.esero.ie/upcoming-workshop

Lough Gur Heritage Centre - Co Limerick

July 4th to 8th 2016

Course Number: 513

Book on-line at Limerick Education Centre

www.esero.ie/upcoming-workshop

Lismore Heritage Centre - Co. Waterford

July 4th to 8th 2016

Course Number: 514

Book on-line at Waterford Education Centre

www.esero.ie/upcoming-workshop

New teaching resource ‘The Magic of Light’

A new teaching resource containing eight light-related activities is now available to download from the ESA website. Combining science with art, ‘[The Magic of Light](#)’ uses spectrometers and colour wheels to allow pupils to explore how different colours of light can be produced and broken down. The resource, aimed at pupils aged between 8 and 12 years old, contains a teacher guide as well as a separate worksheet for the activities.

ESA's Summer workshop 2016

ESA is organising its 7th Teachers' Summer Workshop at ESTEC, the Netherlands, from 6th to 8th July 2016. The workshop is open to both primary and secondary school teachers. ESERO Ireland are offering a bursary for eight lucky participants of this course. For more information, please visit

<http://esero.ie/upcoming-workshop/esa-summer-course-workshop-2016/>.

Inflight Call with ESA astronaut Tim Peake

On Thursday, 14th April, ESA astronaut Tim Peake, who is currently living and working on the International Space Station (ISS), connected live from space with teachers in selected European Countries. Teachers and students were given the opportunity to interact and ask

Tim questions regarding STEM and space careers. To find out more or to watch the Inflight Call, visit www.esa.int/Education/Teachers_Corner



National STEM Weeks

Tech Week April 24th - 30th



Tech Week is Ireland's nationwide festival of technology aimed at students, parents and the public.

Tech Week provides hands-on opportunities to learn about how computing and related technology are shaping every area of life: education, health, environment, social interaction, leisure, citizenship ... the list never ends and the pace of change never stops.

With events happening nationwide, visit the [Tech Week](#) page on the Discover Primary Science & Maths site to find out more.



Science Foundation Ireland Discover Centres

Discover Primary Science & Maths has a network of over 50 Science Centres with approved workshops and/or outreach resources. Check out what's happening in your area:

Science Foundation Ireland Discover Centre Video – Irish National Sailing School

Check out our latest Science Foundation Ireland Discover Centre video where White Church National School, Rathfarnham visit Irish National Sailing School, Dun Laoghaire Co. Dublin. [Watch as the children do a range of hands on activities](#) from rock pooling on a sandy beach to exploring the marine life in the local caves and harbour.

CIT Blackrock Observatory

SPACE WEEK - Our Planet, Our Space, Our Time

Space Week is a new national STEM week in association with Science Foundation Ireland and ESERO Ireland which will run in parallel with World Space Week from October 3 – 8. [Space Week participation](#) will enable all people to explore how as 21st century citizens 'under one sky' we can use the power of critical thinking, science and technology to shape our understanding of life on Earth and address global challenges with partnerships for education, peace and social good.

Global Action Plan

Global Action Plan (GAP) is an environmental organisation focusing on people and how they can take practical environmental action in their everyday lives for a more sustainable world. We are part of an international network of organisations working for a common goal; to empower people to live and work increasingly sustainably. GAP Ireland is a member of the Irish Environmental Network and the Environmental Pillar. [Have a look at the great workshops that they have on offer!](#)

Galway Atlantaquaria

At [Galway Atlantaquaria](#), Irelands National Aquarium, science, technology and ecology come together with the introduction of the new Renewable Ocean Energy display & [Galway Field Studies Centre](#). Now school groups/tours can avail of the engineering trial including wave energy at Galway Atlantaquaria and complete a Seashore or Grassland ecology study.

The Rediscovery Centre

[The Rediscovery Centre](#) offers outreach Biodiversity workshops for primary schools, suitable for Junior Infants to 6th Class on a range of different topics that are all linked to primary curriculum, including the 'Nuts about Nature' Biodiversity workshop.

This workshop introduces the topic of biodiversity, in particular the animals and plants in Ireland. The workshop explores habitats and ecosystems, food chains and how animals are adapted to different habitats, with an emphasis on camouflage.

WeCreate

Visit [WeCreate](#) to experience hands-on, interactive workshops at this unique workspace located in the Cloughjordan Ecovillage. The workshops introduce digital fabrication to primary school pupils and the specially designed activities encourage pupils to use their imagination and creativity to explore scientific and environmental subjects.



Partner organisations

APC Microbiome Institute

The Science Foundation Ireland APC Microbiome Institute had more than 1 million page views from all over the world on its Microbe Magic children's' website in 2015. This wonderful interactive and colourful website is packed full of valuable resources for children

aged 8-12, teachers and parents. And now it can be used on iPad and other devices as well as personal computers.

Three main sections covered are Microbes, Body and Health. The website offers a range of resources to make teaching more enjoyable and interactive for all involved, including experiments, 3D games puzzle and apps and a variety of quizzes which relate to your body, diet and your gut.

So in the classroom or for homework, check out <http://microbemagic.ucc.ie/>

SEAI

SEAI and Discover Primary Science and Maths have teamed up to deliver a teacher summer course workshop in Airfield Estate, Co. Dublin and The Maldron Hotel Galway from 4th – 8th July.

The objective of the course, 'Teaching science through inquiry with DPSM/ESERO and SEAI' is to assist participants to teach Science and Maths through inquiry using Discover Primary Science & Maths resources and SEAI's Exploring our Energy Programme.

For more information, please visit <http://www.seai.ie/Schools/>



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