



Welcome to the last DPSM newsletter of 2018 as we recover from the excitement of Science Week to bring you some final programme updates. It's been another successful year for STEM learning and we look forward keeping the momentum going for an even more exciting year of Primary Science in 2019...watch this space!

Programme Updates

DPSM/ESERO Continuous Professional Development

We are happy to report that the DPSM/ESERO CPD programme for primary schools is now fully subscribed for this year, and CPD workshops are already taking place around the country for 150 participating primary schools.

Registration for the 2019/20 CPD training will open again in late May/early June 2019. Details will be sent to principals and available on our website at that time. Further information on our CPD programme can be found [here](#).

SFI Discover Science and Maths Award

Want more recognition for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) work you are doing in your school? Why not apply for an SFI Discover Science & Maths Award and join the 1500+ primary schools across the country that have already received the recognition they deserve for their fantastic STEM efforts?

Registration closes on 15th of March 2019, so please click [here](#) to register your school today and make sure you don't miss out!

Full details of the Awards, along with downloadable information sheets for each Award can be found [here](#).

For schools that have previously participated in the programme you will notice that we have made a couple of changes to the Awards this year.

- Firstly, all application forms **must** be completed through the **new online system** this year, to be more environmentally friendly and reduce paper waste. (Note: we are willing to accept hard-copy Logs of Evidence but would prefer to see digital versions).
- Secondly, we have **changed the criteria for Step 1 of the Plaque slightly** to encourage more STEM learning outside of the classroom. Please see the Plaque [info sheet](#) for more details.

We are always looking at ways we can make the Awards programme even better so hope that you enjoy getting stuck in this year!



ESERO

DPSM/ESERO Continuous Professional Development

We are happy to report that the DPSM/ESERO CPD programme for primary schools is now fully subscribed for this year, and CPD workshops are already taking place around the country for 150 primary schools that have signed up for 2018/2019. Further information on our CPD programme can be found [here](#).

FIRST® LEGO® League competition 2018

ESA has teamed up with LEGO to provide inspiration, support and expertise to the European teams participating in the *FIRST® LEGO® League competition 2018*, under the theme of Space. See announcement, in English, [here](#).

ESERO Ireland wants to help the teams find information and relevant space examples that can be useful for teams' projects. Teams are welcomed to our website where they can access free classroom resources, exciting space challenges and competitions and even videos with national space scientists and engineers!

Stay tuned on these and the [ESA Education](#) pages to find out about the other space-themed school projects coming up this school year.

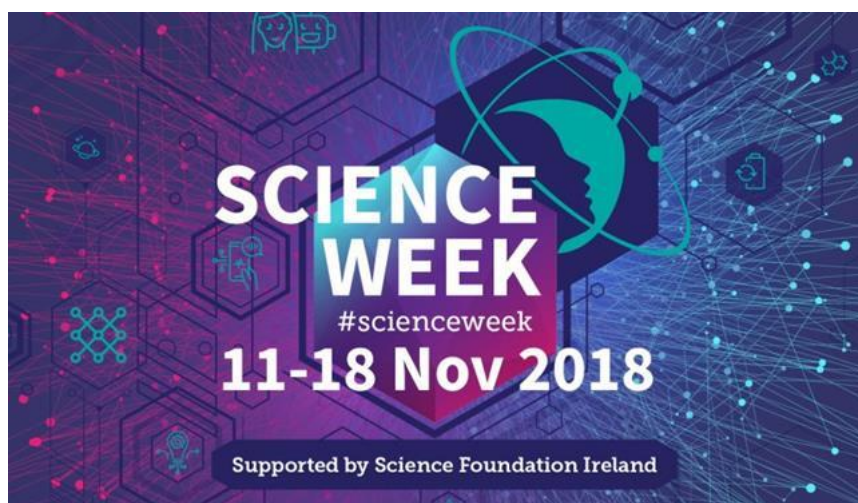
Technology and Robotics Workshop in Belgium

Primary school teachers from [ESA Member and Associate States](#) are invited to apply to technology and robotics workshops to be delivered by the ESA Education Office at the e-Technology Lab in the ESA Education Training Centre, located in Belgium, in January, February and March 2019.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.esa.int/Education/Teachers_Corner/Apply_to_upcoming_e-technology_lab_secondary_teacher_training_sessions

STEM Weeks



Science week ran from 11th to 18th of November with close to 1400 Science events taking place around the country and lots of well received coverage in the national media! It was fantastic to see so many people of all ages taking part and thank you to all the schools that shared their science activities with us on social media.

For schools that didn't get a chance to participate, fear not- you can still access our special Science Week resource booklet [here](#) and investigate trees in different seasons with your class, while gathering evidence for your Award at the same time!

Next up in 2019 are:

- [Engineers Week](#): 2nd to 8th March, 2019
- [Tech Week](#): 11th to 17th May, 2019

So, make sure you start planning how your school can get involved in these STEM weeks early in the new year!



Discover Centres

By now your school should have received a copy of the new SFI Discover Centre Network Directory, which highlights opportunities for schools to participate in informal STEM education. With the accreditation of 5 new SFI Discover Centres this year the network has grown to 59 members all over the country. This means that there are more opportunities than ever for your school take STEM learning out of the classroom and into one of the exciting and interactive workshops offered by the SFI Discover Centres in your locality. Click [here](#) to download a copy of the full directory and start your informal STEM learning today!



New video alert!

Make sure to check out the latest Discover Centre video, where we documented a trip to [Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre](#).

We've had a great year of welcoming primary schools from all over Mayo to the centre for workshops including bog ecology, conservation and dark sky exploration. Our outreach programme to schools, libraries and public events is also in full flow. Best of all, it's free! To book your class in for next year email: margaret.flaherty@chg.gov.ie or phone 098-49872. An update to our park name is coming into play and you may see 'Wild Nephin' popping up more often next year as we aim to encompass the entirety of the 15,000 hectare park and its surrounding communities.



Dublin Zoo opens its new Discovery and Learning Centre!

The Discovery and Learning Centre is Dublin Zoo's new state-of-the-art education facility which provides immersive learning experience in biodiversity and wildlife conservation. Opened in August 2018, the centre is rich with animal biofacts for you to explore. Children can get close to some of our planet's amazing biodiversity, stroll past a pair of African lions, count the bones in a full scale giraffe skeleton and meet a Southern white rhinoceros face-to-face. Our centre is facilitated by knowledgeable volunteers who are sure to inspire curiosity in the natural world.

The centre also has 2 purpose built classrooms, a small lecture theatre and an auditorium for up to 120 people.

To find out more about programmes we offer please visit:

<https://www.dublinzoo.ie/55/Primary-Education.aspx>



Winter Waves at the Aquarium

Science always makes a splash at the aquarium! During our DPSM programmes our tour-guides tailor the day to suit the student's needs, junior and senior options are also available. Each workshop is hands-on, engaging and fun! With Engineers Week just around the corner, why not celebrate by taking part in our Coastal Flood Defence Workshop where students will develop key skills through action Learning.

Why stop there? Continue your student's ocean engagement by checking out information on Irelands Native Marine species on www.nationalaquarium.ie. Using the free lesson plans from www.explorers.ie, you can also bring the ocean into your classroom without moving a mussel!

For more information on our educational packages or to book your group in, call us on (091) 585100 or email us at info@nationalaquarium.ie.



New Marine Conservation Roadshow and Rescue Centre Discovery Tours!

Seal Rescue Ireland would like to announce our brand new Marine Conservation Roadshow and Rescue Centre Discovery Tours. These immersive learning opportunities will introduce your students to seal ecology, marine conservation, and common threats facing native Irish seals. Your students will also get the chance to put on their problem solving hats and take home simple messages that allow them to get involved with wildlife and become habitual conservationists. In an era marked by climate change and plastic pollution join us for an inspirational, positive examination of the word we are looking to save!

To book, email: education@sealrescueireland.org



Engineers Week Supernova Tour: During Engineers Week 2019, Supernova Tours at CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory will focus on how Engineering Skills were vital to the Apollo

missions. For STEM weeks, Supernova Tours are offered at a discounted rate of just €5 per student, and free for DEIS schools.

100 Hours of Astronomy: To celebrate the IAU's 100th Anniversary, CIT BCO will be participating in activities for "100 Hours of Astronomy" from the 10th - 13th January 2019. Event details TBC <https://www.bco.ie/events/>

Pre-Engineer's Week CPD: CIT BCO are offering a Continuous Professional Development course on how to use inquiry-based learning techniques to promote children's learning and understanding of (STEM). The free course will use the Engineering Challenges of the Apollo program as a theme.

For Bookings, Contact frances.mccarthy@bco.ie.

Partner Organisations

RTÉjr Competition in conjunction with APC Microbiome Ireland SFI Research Centre

Follow your Food - RTÉjr Let's Find Out Colouring Competition

Win a visit to your school from the world's only giant inflatable digestive system "*Alimentary Adventures*" which allows you to explore the insides of the human body.

The "*Let's Find Out*" colouring competition is open to school children between 5 and 8 years of age in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

Download the colouring page pdf, colour it in and post it to: Let's Find Out, RTÉjr, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 for a chance to win! Closing date: 7th December 2018.

Full competition details: <https://rtejr.rte.ie/prizes/lets-find-out-colouring-competition-follow-your-food/>



Science Apprenticeship Series

What kinds of superpowers do our bodies naturally have? How do we make sense of the world? What's in the air we breathe, and how are the things around us made? The latest Science Apprentice series of books for primary school children was on the case figuring out the answers through hands-on workshops, teacher resources, augmented reality and by asking researchers in Ireland who are themselves exploring these intriguing topics. The series was free to collect with the Irish Independent in SuperValu stores every Saturday in November this year. The books were produced by University College Dublin and partners and supported by the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Programme and the Environmental Protection Agency. Written by Dr Claire O'Connell, the books open children's minds to a world of potential STEM careers.. <http://www.ucd.ie/scienceapprentice/>

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ESB Science Blast

ESB Science Blast takes place at the RDS Dublin, March 6-7; MIC Limerick, May 22-24 and Belfast Waterfront, June 5-6, 2019. This month's deadline for [ESB Science Blast](#) is November 30th. **Every participating school will receive €75 towards their travel costs.** To get involved, all you need to do is to come up with a simple question for a class investigation.

We are encouraging schools to bring more than one class (3rd - 6th or KS2) to make this a whole school celebration of science! The dates have been chosen to better fit into the primary school calendar, and no school will be asked to exhibit on a Saturday. Get your class

question in today! Please visit www.scienceblast.ie



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