

Case study – Holy Trinity Primary School

Type: Primary School **Location:** West Yorkshire **Website:** <http://www.holytrinitycofecalderdale.org.uk/>

We have taken part in *No Pens Day Wednesday* every year since its inception in 2011. As this was our fourth time participating in the day, we wanted to do something a little different – as a result, this time we chose to focus our *No Pens Day Wednesday* on science and scientific vocabulary.

The reason that we chose to have this specific focus was because we had noticed that as children grew older, they seemed to struggle more and more with maths and science. Part of the reason for this is because the vocabulary changes in these subjects. The majority of our pupils have English as an additional language, and as a result during our *No Pens Day Wednesday* we wanted to get them using scientific vocabulary as much as possible so that it becomes more familiar to them, as many of the terms are not ones that the children would use on a day to day basis.



Over the course of the day, our pupils carried out a range of exciting scientific activities. For example, one class were looking at the properties of solids and liquids. They were trying to find out the melting point of crayons - in order to do this, they stuck different coloured crayons to a piece of paper. They then used a hairdryer as a heat source to melt the crayons, creating some cool 'messy crayon art' in the process! The crayons melted quite quickly, leading the pupils to conclude that the melting point of a crayon was fairly low (between 37 and 68°C)!

Another class had the objective of making a graph showing hair colour. Although in a normal lesson, they would have used pens and graph paper to create this, as it was *No Pens Day*, the pupils used an alternative – themselves! They created a human graph out in the playground by sitting in four rows on a large mat. In the end there were five pupils with brown hair, three with blonde, one with ginger and sixteen with black.

As in previous years, pupils and staff both really enjoyed the day, and there was a really positive atmosphere throughout the school during the week. The materials provided by the Trust were a fantastic starting point for us, and it was very easy to supplement them with our own science-centric materials. If there are any other schools who, like us, have been doing *No Pens Day Wednesday* for a few years and are looking for new ways to keep the day fresh and innovative, we would strongly recommend taking a subject themed approach. It ensured that our day was both focused and fun, and it meant that in addition to improving speech, language and communication, we were able to address other issues that were important to us as a school.



Anne Webster, EYFS Manager