

Science Week – Year 3 observation

I had the pleasure today of attending year 3's classes whilst they were undertaking volcano related activities as part of Science Week.

The level of enthusiasm in the rooms was high as they were building volcanoes from plastic bottles, card and tissue paper. They were very happy to share their experience of this week's activities with me, with overwhelmingly positive feedback that it had been fun and enjoyable. It appeared that they particularly liked the experiments demonstrating solids and liquids (parents may wish to hide the cornflour in their kitchen cupboards) and how to inflate a balloon without touching it.

It was interesting to hear that they had written reports on volcanoes and were very clear to communicate that maths and understanding temperatures is an important skill for science, particularly as lava apparently can be as hot as 1200 Celsius! Once they finished their incredibly creative models, they were happy to spend time doing a volcano themed word search whilst waiting for their classmates to finish in the few minutes left before playtime.

There was a clear interest from the children regarding what they had learned, and many had been watching the television news regarding the eruption of Mount Etna this week. They proudly named a number of volcanoes around the world, many referenced Vesuvius and Pompeii, and they were keen to explain what is meant by the terms active, dormant and extinct.

I returned to one of the classes later to witness the model volcanoes erupting - to much excitement from the pupils. These were again done with kitchen cupboard ingredients, and were very impressive with their red bubbling 'lava'.

Many thanks to Year 3 pupils and staff for a welcoming, informative and entertaining visit.

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