



Leppington, Birch Hill, Bracknell, RG12 7ZX  
Headteacher: Michael Dillon B Ed (Hons) MA

Friday, 07 February 2020

Year 5 3M STEM Challenge

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity that is available to our Year 5 students.

3M, the global science-based technology and innovation company located in Bracknell, is launching an initiative called the Young Innovators challenge. This is a competition, which is designed to inspire and encourage 'the next generation of original thinkers'. The tasks they set link closely to the National Curriculum and allow children the opportunity to develop and refine skills such as: collaboration, innovation, problem-solving, presentation and reasoning.

Today, your child was introduced to this year's Challenge: Slo-Mo Marble. This project incorporates the scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical learning about gravity, energy, friction and material properties. The aim is to incorporate a minimum of three different methods to slow a marble's descent in a run.

Over the following weeks, your child will be given dedicated time, during school, in which to design a marble run to submit to a staff judging panel; from this, the three most innovative and well-reasoned designs will be selected to work with myself over a series of after-school sessions in order to construct their design. During these sessions, the selected teams will also prepare a presentation for when they present their creation to a judging panel at the 3M site (1st or 4th May). They will be marked on several categories, such as: background research, design experimentation, marble run performance, aesthetics of the prototype and presentation quality.

As a school, we are excited by this project and we hope you are too. Any support you could give in discussing this project with your child, especially regarding different ideas over half-term, would be hugely beneficial.

Thank you in advance for your support. I will keep you updated on the progress of this project. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Garnham