



**STEM**  
AMBASSADOR HUB  
NORTH MIDLANDS, SOUTH & EAST YORKSHIRE

## Case study: #ShareTheSTEMLove

### Berry Hill Primary School

#### Overview

Berry Hill Primary School in Mansfield have worked with the STEM Ambassador Hub for the past couple of years, with local STEM Ambassadors coming into school and delivering some excellent hands-on sessions. They have borrowed books and resources and were even planning to host joint training with the Hub team on rockets, with STEM Ambassadors watching, learning and supporting the session.

Switch to March 2020, lockdown one and everything stopped! No on-site visitors, training session cancelled, resources returned to base.



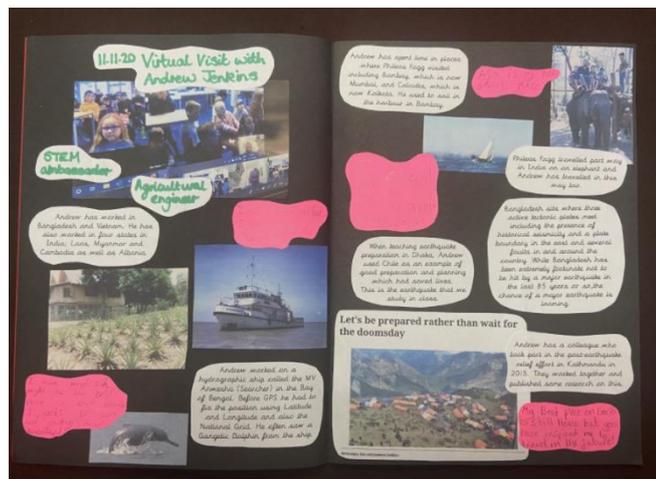
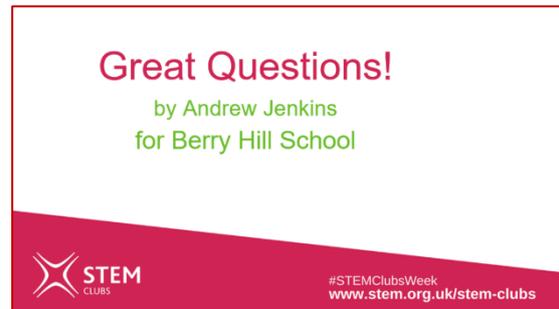
In September 2020, things started to return to the new normal. Children were back in classrooms. Still no visitors in school but teachers started asking if there was support available to help them bring learning alive – requests about topics such as 'trees', 'weather reporting', 'Vikings and evolution' and 'different places around the world'. Through the STEM Ambassadors programme, the world suddenly opened up again – virtually!

One of the most interesting and creative developments was around the support for the Year 1 classes. The school would normally have taken the pupils to visit Sherwood Forest – a local beauty spot – to learn about animals in the woods. STEM Ambassadors were able to help by doing a live TEAMS session from the woods, providing videos and

interactive PowerPoint presentations. They were able to talk about the wildlife in their own local areas enabling pupils to experience a myriad of animal habitats.

For Year 4, the school were looking for support with their topic 'Around the World'. STEM Ambassadors were able to help by doing TEAMS sessions with videos, live Q&A and with pre-submitted questions. Children had a session with the Met Office around

volcanoes and ash clouds, as well as talking to people who had lived or worked in various parts of the world from the Antarctic to Laos. The aim was to inspire children to want to look outside their own geographical area and this had a particular relevance with the restrictions on travel in place. The school were also able to make use of the 'Offers' section on the STEM Learning website. They found an offer about Earth Sciences and the STEM Ambassador redesigned her resources for a primary school audience.



## Impact

Corinna Brown, Extended Services Coordinator at Berry Hill Primary School said, "The benefits of linking to a STEM Ambassador cannot be overstated. They have brought a wealth of knowledge to our school in so many ways that we could never have dreamed about. They have applied their own STEM experiences to the topics we were learning in such creative ways. They have also had the willingness to adapt their existing resources specifically to us."

Corinna continued, "Speaking as a coordinator, supporting teachers to help them bring their lessons and teaching alive, I have regularly completed the request forms for STEM Ambassadors and have never been disappointed. Often, I have many, many

responses and always from someone who has an amazing job, outlook on life or experiences way beyond my life experiences, never mind the children's! Teachers that have made STEM Ambassador requests have been thrilled with the outcomes from all the partners involved. Sessions have enhanced children's learning, given them opportunities to be 'hands on', they have been shown amazing photographs and had their questions answered – what is there not to love about STEM Ambassadors."

Some feedback included:

"Brilliant! These children are so lucky!!! We have organised some wonderful STEM Ambassador opportunities for the children this term!" Year 4 Teacher.

"It was great! The children loved seeing the trees and the animal prints. The children discussed all the animals as you were walking and could tell me about the trees in our school playground - especially the acorns! Thank you again!" Year 1 Teacher to STEM Ambassador.

"The videos the STEM Ambassador is offering sound great! We could use them across the term to refer to and some of our more active children could do practical activities based on them. Great that they are willing to share these resources with us at Berry Hill." Teacher planning prior to a STEM Ambassador session.

"I have really enjoyed my involvement with Berry Hill this term and thank you very much for making the link!" STEM Ambassador.

"While we live through a challenging time, it is essential that our children continue to develop a sense of wonder and a love of learning, which their teachers are working so hard to sustain. STEM Ambassadors have a wealth of knowledge and experience and it is incredibly rewarding to share that with young minds and benefit from their excitement and enthusiasm!" Andrew Jenkins, Agricultural Engineer and STEM Ambassador who has supported the school.

## **Future plans**

The school would fully recommend any school linking with STEM Ambassadors. Lesson to learn for future sessions - any glitches to lockdown sessions are mainly due to

technology not working as expected. Schools and their staff have had a rapid learning curve, just like many other organisations and people in the world.

Now in lockdown three, the online learning is more difficult as classes are split between school and home. However, the school is keen to continue working with STEM Ambassadors. One idea they have had is about asking the STEM Ambassadors to film themselves delivering their talk so it can be shown to all the children irrespective of where they are based.

## **More information**

DEBP are a Social Enterprise and work with employers to develop bespoke programmes to support young people. We manage the STEM Ambassador Hub in North Midlands (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) and South and East Yorkshire on behalf of STEM Learning. For more information go to [www.debp.org](http://www.debp.org) and follow us on social media:

- [Twitter STEM Hub account](#)
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