



# GREENFYLDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL *including Sunny Ile Pre-School*



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Headteacher: Miss Claire Oaten

## Update for Ilminster Town Council – February 2017

How good are your Lego building skills? Maybe you are better at Meccano or sticklebricks but whatever the product all of these games teach some very important skills.

The ability to see how things fit together and see beyond the basic shapes to a different end product is a key skill in engineering, a subject we have introduced to our curriculum this year. Although we have always taught Design and Technology we felt Engineering gave the children a clear link between the skills and knowledge they were developing and a potential future career. We want projects that let them see the practical implications of their learning in Science and Mathematics and to understand that this creative innovation leads to many of the products they take for granted in their world today.

In March we are holding an Engineering Week when all the classes (even Pre-School) will be encouraged to imagine, explore and investigate a range of challenges and products. So far we know we will be bridge building, looking at how a car works courtesy of BMW and inviting engineers from colleges and firms to share their awe and wonder about building and making things work. We live in an area with a rich history of engineering in many forms and we want to give our children the skills and ability to carry on this tradition with the imagination and resilience to create wonderful things.

Also in March we will be encouraging our pupils to think about the future through Fair Trade fortnight. All of our classes will be considering Fair Trade in their own and the wider life of the community and world as we work towards achieving a Fair Aware award. As the Schools' Champion I would encourage the Council to look out for activities happening in the town and support these so that our pupils see adults sharing the Fairtrade message as well.

Finally our prizes from our National Pupil Premium award continue to bring much delight for the staff and pupils. In January the Royal Academy of Arts visited for a Family Day when they worked with parents and children creating art in a range of ways from drawing life models to creating more abstract pieces to tell a story. Hopefully, these pieces will form part of our Art Exhibition in May at the Arts Centre (you may also have seen us recently at the Schools' Art Exhibition). Five staff have now been trained as Arts Award leaders and we will start to encourage our pupils to create portfolios to achieve these awards and later this term our Year 4s will be preparing for their visit from the Royal Shakespeare Company when they will present a day workshop for pupils and staff.

Claire Oaten  
Headteacher

