**Arley Primary School**

**Parent Governor Report – Family Science Trail**

**Location:** School Learning Street

**Date:** Tuesday 12th March 2019

Today I had the pleasure of accompanying my two children around the schools Science Trail in aid of British Science Week.

Due to heavy rain, the activities were well organised in the Learning Street. Each family had a sheet containing the name of each station & a set of objectives. Each station giving you the opportunity to apply your science knowledge to a task or a challenge.

We had to work our way round each station, completing each activity using the resources or equipment provided and answer a question.

The children really engaged & particularly enjoyed 'Boat-tastic,' which involved making a boat out of the resources provided; paper & sellotape. The aim of this challenge was to design and create a boat to go in water, fill it with as much lego as it could hold until it started to sink. The lego was then collected and weighed to see how successful our boat making skills were. We identified that when paper gets wet, those strong hydrogen bonds get broken down and separate, so we had to consider how to keep it water tight for as long as possible. The girls decided to make the boat a rectangle shape, folding up each side, they layered the sides & bottom with sellotape, giving the boat a rigid shape with deep enough sides to retain the lego. Onto the water it went & in went the lego, we watched as more and more lego was added until slowly is started to sink. The girls managed to get a huge amount of 475g in their boat.

Another fun activity was called ‘Treemendous,’ which involved measuring the girth of an Oak Tree in the playground & then using mathematical skills to estimate the age of the tree. We estimated the tree was 2.25m, which roughly equated to 900 years old! We then had to answer a question about the name of trees that keep their leaves all year round, considering the information provided; ‘trees that lose their leaves are called deciduous.’

We had to give the children a few clues but finally got the answer - Evergreen!

Once each activity was complete, your sheet was stamped, and you moved onto the next station.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable event, the children really had to put their thinking caps on, considering the task at hand with the element of science and combining the two successfully in order to complete the activity or challenge.

It highlighted that outdoor learning is an important way of contextualising science and allows children to engage with the environment around them; something which cannot always be achieved in the confinements of a classroom.

It was so lovely to see so many families gathered to participate in something new & exciting!