

30th January 2024

Dear Parents /Carers,

STEAM CLUB

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths

We would like to thank you for encouraging your child to take part in our after school STEAM Club. We believe that it's really good for the children to develop their skills in these five subject areas.

We endeavour to make these subjects fun, and in the process hopefully impart some scientific knowledge. More importantly however, we hope to develop their minds to be more inquisitive and enquiring with a confidence to ask questions and explore possible answers and solutions.

Beginning this Friday (2nd February) we would like to take the kids on an investigative journey following a reputable STEAM Scheme called the 'Super Star' CREST Awards. These awards are managed by the British Science Association, which inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers.

Over the course of the remainder of the school year (spring and summer term) the children will be taking part in, and hopefully complete eight 'Super Star' challenges. These challenges are designed to be completed in an hour, so perfect for our after school club.

This week we will be investigating fingerprints, if you would like to see the challenge in advance and discuss with your child we have provided the activity sheet. Our next challenge will be after half term. If you would like to read more about CREST Awards please visit

<http://www.crestawards.org/crest-superstar>.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to be in touch after STEAM Club any Friday.

Kindest regards,

The STEAM Club Team



SUPERSTAR

Fantastic Fingerprints

Activity Card



Your challenge

Find out if everyone's fingerprints really are different.

Discuss

How do you think fingerprints are collected?

Look at your fingerprints with a hand lens or microscope.

What do your own fingerprints look like? Are they the same as your partner's prints?



Getting started

You either need to rub pencil onto a piece of paper or you can sprinkle a small amount of dust on a table.

Now put your thumb in the dust or on the pencil rubbing. Place your thumb firmly on the sticky side of a piece of sellotape. Now stick your sellotape onto a piece of paper.

You may need to experiment to get clear prints.

Test your ideas

Look at the prints, do you have any of these patterns?

ARCH



LOOP



WHORL



Compare your prints with other people. Are they all different?

Can you find other ways to collect fingerprints?

Share your ideas

Share all the fingerprints. Can you work out which are yours? You could let Mrs Teachem have copies or drawings of fingerprints.

Extra things to do

Look for fingerprints on surfaces such as glass. Can you identify who made them?

Some people think children's fingerprints should not be used as records in schools. What do you think?

Can you find out other ways of identifying individuals?