

TESTIMONIAL

Handheld Microscopes SC01155

Find out what St. Saviour CE Primary thought about the Handheld Microscopes.



“The initial impact we have seen has been in regards to engagement levels in reading.”

We are a single-entry CE primary school on the outskirts of Bolton.. Our children are predominantly white British with about 7% non-white British. FSM is relatively low at less than 10%.

We were interested in trying some new resources. Microscopes can be very expensive, delicate and difficult to share in a class environment – previously we have only had one that was shared between all classes and used via a laptop and white board – although the children could see the magnification, they did not get the hands-on experience or learn how to use the equipment, and you might as well just show images on the internet for the impact it had.

We are looking to develop science predominantly – although the children felt that they would be interested in using them to investigate historical artefacts, forensic science and looking at the art and beauty of magnified things (I had not thought of that one at all).

Initially the children were just looking at how to use the microscopes and then they thought about the impact and how they could be used. Certainly, there would be scope using them in a unit on microorganisms and living things.

How did you use the microscopes?

We really had an experiment with the microscopes – we all collected an item from outside in our wild area that we wanted to take a closer look at and then looked at how to use the microscope, how to focus and what we could see. The children were most fascinated looking at the carpet and material and how it was joined together.

My plan was to look at an experiment where we dissolved salt in water, evaporated the water and got the salt crystals back and then look under the microscope at the crystals and draw what they observed. The children wanted to look at different fabrics and materials under the microscope and compare them – they were fascinated that wood looked fibrous, and paper was not as smooth as they thought.

We used the microscopes in the class – we found they worked best with an item flat on the table with a clear background – we have not tried them outside but would be interested to see how that could work. The children did start to examine each other using them and looking in ears etc (brain searching I think!)



CONT.

What impact have you seen?

The children were fascinated by them, they clearly had not used anything like it and the excitement grew once they got them working and could see things in new ways. We will be looking at different fabrics and hair this week to see what differences they can spot.

Clearly it would support Science, but we could see clear links to art, the children thought it could be used in history as well.

The resource has made the children more interested in science and brought the idea of microscopic living things to life – going forward I could see this as a piece of equipment that the children will love using and will enhance learning in Science.

Some child quotes:

All the children were asked to write a short review on what they liked, any improvements and how it could be used here are 4 examples:

Hayden – We could see everything really clear under the microscope. We struggled to work as a team and zooming in was hard at the start. This could help Science.

Bobby - The use of the microscope was very exciting, and we could see the little parts that stick together to make one object. Could help future science projects that involve molecules and small objects. The fact it was so good makes it hard to think of an improvement. Good product.

Ellie – The microscope was amazing – you could see all different things – that was insane – I learnt what things were made-out of.

Phoebe – The microscope was amazing, Just the little details that you saw which I didn't think was possible to be there were unbelievable. This would be amazing for children at school to use to see things the human eye can't. Adjusting it to your eye was easy. It could be used for art and looking at different textures of paint or maybe science and history looking at artefacts.

Many thanks to St. Saviour CE Primary