



# AWARDS OF SCIENCE AND MATHS EXCELLENCE - HOW THEY WORK

In response to feedback from participating teachers some changes are made each year to the structure of your application for the Award of Science & Maths Excellence. This is to allow schools to further their achievements and try something new. There are now five steps that applicants must undertake as detailed below. If you have any queries please contact us at [primaryscience@forfas.ie](mailto:primaryscience@forfas.ie)

- >> TO APPLY FOR AN AWARD PLEASE LOG ONTO [WWW.PRIMARYSCIENCE.IE](http://WWW.PRIMARYSCIENCE.IE) FROM JANUARY 9TH TO MARCH 23RD 2012.
- >> YOUR LOG BOOK MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY 27TH APRIL 2012.

## Keep a Discovery Log

Your Discovery Log is a key aspect of your application for an Award and should provide all the evidence the judging panel needs to demonstrate that your school meets all of the criteria for an Award of Science & Maths Excellence.

**NB: Discovery Logs must be received in full on the submission date – there will be no opportunity to re-submit or substantiate evidence once the application has been made. If evidence is not apparent, an Award cannot be achieved.**



### Break the log into the 5 steps required:

- **Step 1** – This year schools applying for an award must provide evidence that more than one class in the school have been involved in Greenwave (logging the signs of Spring) AND completed 2 other hands-on activities relating to the Energy and Forces strand of the Science curriculum.
- **Step 2** – Visit a DPSM Discover Centre, invite a science speaker or engineer to your school
- **Step 3** – Attend or hold a science event (e.g. a science day or evening in your school, a group from the school attending a science week or engineers week event or the BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition).
- **Step 4** – Maths – Give three examples of how you integrated maths into your science work. This can include your own examples or the maths extensions for DPSM activities – (see [www.primaryscience.ie](http://www.primaryscience.ie) for further information)
- **Step 5** – Science Week - Provide evidence that one or more class in the school have been involved in completing ONE activity relating to the Science Week 2011 theme – The Chemistry of Life – please see [www.primaryscience.ie](http://www.primaryscience.ie) for some ideas.
- Children's accounts of their own work are the basis of a good Discovery Log. Use lots of photos to record work in class, trips, events or visitors to the school, this way you can spend less time writing and more time doing hands-on science and maths.
- If children are keeping individual Discovery Logs, a small number of samples of each can be submitted along with the overall School Discovery Log that covers all the work required for the Award
- Don't be afraid to include things that didn't work in your log book as understanding what went wrong is a very important aspect of science!!

## Step 1 - Prescribed activities

This year schools applying for an award must provide evidence that more than one class in the school have been involved in the following three activities:

### Greenwave

Watch for the signs of spring in your area by observing common species (e.g. swallow, horse chestnut tree) and making weather observations in your area. You must provide evidence that you:

- have registered and logged at least one sighting on the Greenwave website at [www.greenwave.ie](http://www.greenwave.ie)
- have used a thermometer, rain gauge or anemometer to investigate weather in your area. Instructions for all of these activities are available at [www.greenwave.ie](http://www.greenwave.ie).

Choose 2 other hands-on investigations relating to the Energy and Forces strand of the Science curriculum, for example:



### Energy & Forces

(listed below some activities from the DPSM support booklet, please feel free to use other resources for activities)

- Design a bridge
- Friction - slip or stick?
- Dancing raisins
- Rainbow spinner
- Acrobatic clown
- Air pressure
- Strange sounds
- Paper helicopters
- Surface tension and bubbles
- Diving drops and sinking feelings
- Make a lighthouse
- Design a boat

Other activities available on [www.primaryscience.ie](http://www.primaryscience.ie)



☆ **Step 2 - Either A) visit a DPSM Discover Centre or  
B) Invite a Science Speaker or Engineer to your school**



☆ **Step 3 - Attend or hold a science event**

A science day or evening in your school, a group from the school attending a science week event or the BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition. If your event is planned for after the Awards deadline you can include a plan by students of what will happen or a booking form as evidence. For example you could include:

- 🕒 Evidence that your school ran or attended a Science Week event during November 2011. You must provide photographic evidence or children's written account of this.
- 🕒 Evidence that your school took part in the STEPS "Xperience Engineering" project.
- 🕒 A joint science event with another registered school where students display their work. You must provide photographic evidence or children's written account of joint science event.
- 🕒 Evidence that your school took part in Engineers Week 2012.
- 🕒 Evidence that students took part in or attended the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2012.

**Step 4 - Maths**

Give three examples of how you integrated maths into your science work.

- 🕒 Describe three examples of integration of maths into science work, showing the link to any of the strands from the maths curriculum (Number, Algebra, Shape and space, Measures, Data)
- 🕒 Explain how pupils used maths skills (applying and problem solving, communicating and expressing, integrating and connecting, reasoning, implementing, understanding and recalling).

**Step 5 - Science Week**

- 🕒 Provide evidence that one or more class in the school have been involved in completing ONE activity relating to the Science Week 2011 theme – The Chemistry of Life – please see [www.primaryscience.ie](http://www.primaryscience.ie) for some ideas.

*Remember, you must provide evidence for all five steps in your Discovery Log. You can submit your intention to apply for an award from January 9th to March 23rd 2012.*

*All Discovery Logs must be in our office by close of business on Friday 27th April 2012.*

