Primary STEM Challenge – 8th Edition

Guidelines and Regulations

The *Primary STEM Challenge* invites young learners to explore science through curiosity, creativity and investigation.

1. Register your interest to participate in the Primary STEM Challenge by not later than **Friday 27th November 2026** by compiling the registration form in the following **LINK**.
2. The following criteria will guide the adjudication process for each category. Videos for individual and classroom entries will be adjudicated as follows:

Category A – Early Years (Year 1 and Year 2) Individual or Class Entries Success Criteria *Maximum 3 minutes*	
Elements of STEM	
1.	Final video shows: • Basic science exploration (e.g. looking, touching, testing). • Evidence of simple use of materials or simple engineering (e.g. building, testing things out). • Numbers, sizes, or comparisons used where possible (e.g. bigger/smaller, more/less).
Inquiry Process	
2.	Final video shows the following elements: • Ability to ask a simple **question** e.g. "What happens if I blow on this?" • Ability to make a simple **prediction** e.g. "I think the big wheel will go faster". • Ability to carry out the **investigation** with some support. • Ability to share **observations** (verbally, drawings or photos).
Communication	
3.	Final video (maximum of 3 minutes) shows: • The child's ability to communicate clearly. • Child shows enthusiasm and understanding that is age appropriate.
Additional Points	
4.	Connection to Everyday Life: Child relates it to something familiar e.g. "Wind makes my kite fly".
5.	Presentation: Work shows the child's engagement and involvement.

Category B – Primary Years (Year 3 to Year 6) Individual or Class Entries Success Criteria *Maximum 3 minutes*	
Elements of STEM	
1.	Final video shows elements of: • Science • Technology • Engineering • Mathematics
Inquiry Process	
2.	Final video shows the following elements: • Ability to formulate a **research question** and directly relate it to the investigation topic. • Ability to formulate a scientifically correct and logical **prediction**. • Ability to conduct a **fair test**. • Investigation shows a clear and logical **procedure**. • Investigation is **reliable** e.g.: evidence of repeated readings. • Accurate and clear representation of **results**. • **Conclusion** of investigation shows a degree of research and is aligned to initial prediction.
Communication	
3.	Final video (maximum of 3 minutes) shows student's ability to communicate effectively: • Communication tool used is appropriate and message is clearly conveyed. • Relevant and aligned to task criteria (within context). • Can deliver message consistently and clearly. Points may be deducted for entries submitted in fast forward.
Additional Points	
4.	Final video authenticity – does the student show novelty / has researched a new concept for the final product?
5.	Application to everyday life – does the student develop the connection between the investigation and relevance to everyday life application?
6.	Work presented is complete and neatly presented.
7.	Alignment to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

3. The Primary Science Team in collaboration with *Great Science Share for Schools* is offering participants valuable support in distinct ways. Participants are encouraged to:
   a) visit www.greatscienceshare.org/great-science-skills for tips and resources for scientific enquiry.
   b) visit www.greatscienceshare.org/great-science-resources-ideas for Great Science Ideas to inspire question-asking.
   c) gain direct personalised feedback while developing the investigation.
   d) participants will be invited to send the final video to the *Great Science Share for Schools* team as part of the #GSSfS2027 global campaign.

   Please note that support is optional, though we highly endorse its value for formative learning and development.

4. Educators/guardians are kindly requested to submit videos for the Primary STEM Challenge by not later than **Monday 25th January 2027** through this **MS Form**.
5. Late submissions will not be accepted.
6. All participants will be invited to showcase their submissions at the third edition of the Primary Science Fair, to be held in May 2027. Further details regarding the venue and arrangements for presenting the projects will be communicated by e-mail at a later stage.
7. The finalists must present the investigation process on a poster size A2 as in the example in the picture below and may also present a model of the investigation.



8. The Directorate for STEM & VET Programmes, DSVP will be providing award prizes as follows:
   - science-kits awards to the first three *Primary STEM Challenge* finalists within each theme, for each category (Category A and Category B); and
   - science-kits tokens to the two-runner-up classroom for each category (Category A and Category B).

9. HSBC Malta Foundation will provide one classroom prize for each category (Category A and Category B), consisting of €150 worth of science resources per category, based on the adjudication criteria above.
10. Esplora Interactive Science Centre will be providing a Science Communication Award prize to one participant **in Category B only**, for each theme according to the following adjudication criteria:

Science Communication Award - Success Criteria
Content
The final video shows: • Content that is scientifically accurate. • Content that is broken down into simple, understandable information. • Content that is relevant and suitable for its audience. • Content that is organized with an easy, understandable flow.
Creativity
The final video: • Incorporates elements, such as using questions to stimulate thinking, to involve the audience. • Involves use of resources such as images, physical objects, or similar items are used to improve the presentation.
Presentation Skills
The final video shows that: • The student exhibits confidence through good use of voice and body language (Verbal/Nonverbal). • Speech is clear and at a good pace. • The student demonstrates a genuine interest/enthusiasm. • Presentation is easily understood and does not involve too many technical terms.
Overall Impact
• The final video shows that the presentation is memorable and inspiring.

11. Winners will be announced in March 2027 on the STEM & VET Curriculum Hub and Primary Science Malta Facebook pages.
12. The decision of the adjudication panel is final.
13. All participants will receive blockcerts for their participation.
14. Any queries should be directed to Ms Isabel Zerafa, Education Officer (Primary Science) on isabel.zerafa@ilearn.edu.mt or on 25983597.