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Frequently Asked Questions

* **How do I enter my school?**

Register online at <https://scienceoxford.com/events/big-science-event/>

* **When is the closing date?**

Register your school before 1st January 2019.

* **When should children carry out their investigations?**

Children can work on their investigations any time in the autumn or spring term. You have until the Easter holidays to complete investigations and in-school judging.

* **How** **long should the investigations take?**

You can spend as much time on your investigations as you like. Some schools may spend several hours on their investigations over a number of weeks, others may focus on one afternoon, and others may integrate the investigations into a school science week.

* **When does judging take place?**

Judging will take place soon after the Easter holidays, so let us know any dates when your teams will be unavailable between Easter and the summer half term.

* **How much does it cost to enter?**

Entry is free!

* **How many teams can my school enter?**

If your school is single-form entry, choose one team from your school to go through to the cluster judging stage for our judge to visit. If you are two-form entry, choose two teams, and so on.

* **How do you judge teams from EYFS to year 6 in the same competition?**

One of the key features of the competition is that children across the whole school can take part – often schools run the Big Science Event as part of a science day or science week throughout the school. When our judges visit your school’s team(s) they take into account the age of your children and consider their work against age related expectations for science, rather than against other teams. We’re not primarily judging the children’s presentation skills, but we’re interested in hearing all about the scientific investigation they have done.

* **Who are the judges?**

Our judges comprise members of Science Oxford’s Education Team, members of staff from one of our sponsoring companies, or teams of trainee teachers from our close relationship with Oxford Brookes University. All of our judges are provided with training and guidance to ensure consistency and fairness.

* **When are the winners announced?**

All schools will be notified in June whether their team is invited to the final event, which will be held towards the end of the summer term.

* **How many children should be in a team?**

You can decide - the number of children in each team is flexible. We suggest no more than 6 children to ensure everyone is involved.

* **If children have freedom to choose their own investigations, how do I avoid chaos?**

There are a number of ways to manage pupil led investigations in the classroom to give children independence in designing their investigation whilst setting some boundaries to avoid chaos! For example, consider choosing a topic as a class, giving children a selection of materials and equipment to choose from, linking their investigations to a class topic, or setting a real-life scenario which poses a scientific problem. For more ideas, see our examples of questions from previous Big Science Events, or consider booking our Pupil Led Investigation twilight CPD session (free of charge as part of Science Oxford’s annual membership) <https://scienceoxford.com/events/much-air-take-pop-banana/>

* **How should children present their investigation?**

Teams should produce a poster about their investigation, then use this as a basis to talk to teachers and judges about what they have done. They are free to choose the format – it might include descriptions of what they have done, drawings, graphs, photographs, or even a collage of materials they have used. Our judges look forward to seeing the children’s posters when they come to visit!

* **Where can I find out more?**

If you still have questions, don’t hesitate to get in touch. Visit our website at <https://scienceoxford.com/events/big-science-event/> or email us at schools@scienceoxford.com