

# MRS COTTERILL



## SCIENCE / STEM LEAD

According to my parents, I was forever asking questions. *'Why is that happening?' 'What happens if...?'* or *'How does that...?'*

It sounded like I was working scientifically by hypothesising and making observations and predictions before I even started my own journey into education. I studied Primary Education at DeMontfort University and my core subject was science. I always enjoyed science both at primary and secondary level at school so I decided to choose it as a further depth option whilst studying for my degree.

At Woodthorne, we understand that our children's inquisitive minds start in their early education. I strongly believe in harnessing children's ideas, theories, and explanations into the world around us, for them to comprehend biology concepts such as living processes, animals and their habitats and keeping healthy. Moreover, some children tend to favour the physics or chemistry aspects of science such as materials, electricity and circuits or chemical changes. My favourite area of science is physics as this links into my other curriculum responsibility of STEM lead.

I currently work alongside Collins Aerospace and Aldersley High School to enrich children's learning through science, technology, engineering and maths. I organise after school clubs at Woodthorne which incorporate STEM skills, such as Lego engineers, alongside ambassadors from Collins.

I love watching animals in their habitats. This is a photo I took at Twycross Zoo of a meerkat. They're my favourite animal.

I was lucky enough to visit Westminster Abbey and saw the final resting place of Charles Darwin.



Whilst at a National Trust with my boys and the dog, I noticed these beautiful flowers. Living things are amazing, aren't they?

CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN  
BORN 12 FEBRUARY 1809  
DIED 19 APRIL 1882