

Jubilant July

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School July 2023

Welcome to our final curriculum newsletter for this academic year - it has been a jam-packed half term with a wide range of opportunities and experiences for all of our children.

Sports Day

Despite the weather being hot, all the children participated in a range of activities across the morning. A range of physical skills were tested including balance with the ball and spoon, and target practice. Interspersed between the team games were flat races, the long distance race and of course the favourite tug-of-war. Well done to everyone.





Operation Moonbase - Skills Builder Challenge Day

The whole school was involved in this Skills Builder Challenge Day. In teams, children explored the essential skills by taking part in a series of mini-challenges which led to a new society being produced.

Problem solving

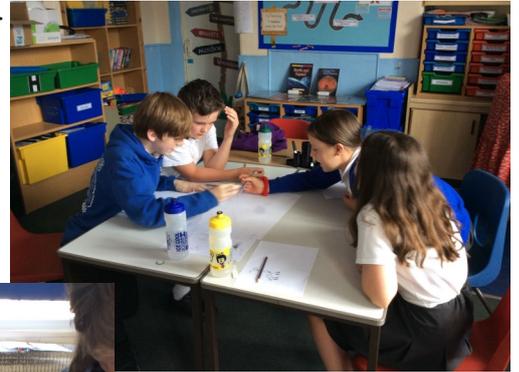


Who should be the first citizens of their new society, a farmer or a pilot? The children discussed different roles and decided together.



Creativity

They designed new creatures that would be helpful in the new society.



Teamwork

Children worked together to decide on important landmarks in their city. They demonstrated their ability to share ideas, listen and compromise.



Leadership

Learners decide what each team member will construct, in preparation for building, planning being essential in order to keep to time.



Staying positive

It was challenging to join materials together to create 3D buildings, but the children showed great determination and kept trying until they found a solution.

Speaking and Listening

Each group member took it in turns to describe their ideas for a new society whilst the rest of the groups listened carefully.



Aiming High

Learners reflect on the day and share which skills they are most confident in.

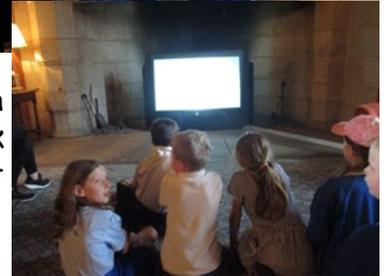


Oak Class

Oak class had a very relaxing day at Castle Drogo, learning all about the history of the building and completing some interesting activities.

Activity 1- Visiting the castle

We were amazed by the castle and the lovely views. When we entered the building, there was a lovely film that explained the history of Castle Drogo through water painted animation. This was a great start to exploring all the interesting rooms. The objects in the room were very intriguing which encouraged the pupils to ask questions to the staff, who were full of knowledge about the history. It was so great to see how the family would have lived 100 years ago.



Activity 2- Sketching the Castle

We then enjoyed some relaxing time admiring the exterior of the castle and enjoying the lovely views.

Activity 3- Exploring the gardens

Our last activity was spotting the different types of bees around the gardens. The gardens were beautiful and we managed to spot every type of bee. We also enjoyed spending time in a hut that contained everything we needed to know about the bees.



Anglo-Saxon Day in Oak Class

Oak class had a lovely day completing lots of different Anglo-Saxon activities and hearing all about the lives of the people who lived during that time.

Steve Manning was a fantastic story teller who was great at checking the pupils' knowledge and had some interesting artefacts to show the class. The class also enjoyed listening to a couple of intriguing stories that inspired some exciting freeze frame drama.



We continued the fun into the afternoon, completing some activities based upon the Anglo-Saxon time period. We baked some lovely oatcakes and used our creativity skills to design our own shield. Oak particularly enjoyed using runes to develop a code their partner had to crack.

"We had an awesome day!" - Pupils at the end of the day.



Ash and Elm

Ash and Elm Class had a fantastic day at Axe Valley Wildlife Park. We listened carefully as the Wildlife Rangers told us lots of interesting facts about the animals and we were all extremely brave during the animal handling session. The children have used their experiences to write some beautifully detailed recounts in Literacy.



Ash and Elm

We all had a great day at Axe Valley Wildlife Park. The children learnt about different species of animals and their habitats and we even got to hold some animals! We then went for a walk around the park spotting porcupines, zebras, ostriches, lemurs, flamingos and lots more! We also fed the meerkats. After our picnic lunch we enjoyed playing in the park.



Ash Class

Our Design Technology project this term has been to design and make a smoothie. We investigated a range of fruits and vegetables, finding out where they are grown and when they are harvested. We enjoyed observing and tasting these fruits and vegetables and used this to decide what to put into our smoothies.

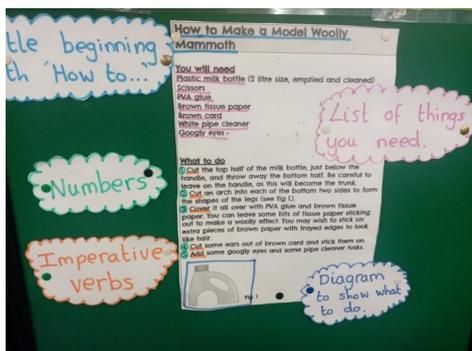
We were able to try out our peeling and cutting skills and were excited to blend all the ingredients together. We discovered that some fruits and vegetables made better tasting smoothies than others!



We had great fun taking part in a skipping session led by 'Dan the Skipping Man'! We learned skipping skills and tricks and had to run under the rope as it was turned which required good timing.



We enjoyed reading "How to wash a woolly mammoth" by Michelle Robinson & Kate Hindley in Literacy. Our writing focus for this half term was instruction writing. We looked at the text features of instructional texts and carefully followed some instructions to make our own woolly mammoths. It was fun to see that even though we all followed the same instructions, each mammoth was quite unique.



Elm Class

This term we have enjoyed lots of fun learning including our class trip, forest school, skills builder day, a skipping day and much more!



In DT we have been designing, making and evaluating a fruit kebab. We had to choose what fruits we liked and put them on our design sheets and then carefully make them. They all enjoyed tasting them!



In Science we have been learning about habitats and exploring the habitats in our school grounds, and the plants and animals that live in them. We created food chains for the plants and animals that we found. We also designed our own rainforest, polar, savannah and ocean habitats and thought about the animals and plants that might live there and what they would need to survive.



Willow Class

We have made it to the end of the summer term! We have been very busy and there has been lots going on in Willow Class!

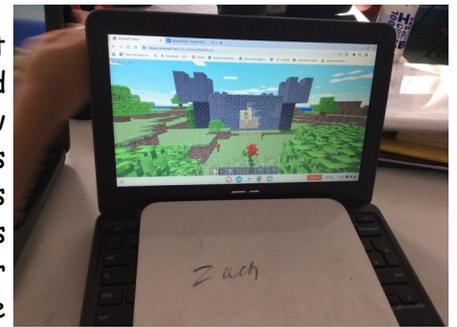
The Year Six children worked incredibly hard to achieve their Civic Award certificates, and it was great to see so many at the regional presentation earlier in the term; we are glad that so many of our children have 'given back' to the communities they live in.

We took part in a **maths** competition, where children had to explain how Egyptian fractions work, and how they differ to the system we use now - it was very challenging!

In **art** we have been studying the work of Christo, and were amazed at his wrapping projects. It was a lot of fun exploring this ourselves in the classroom!



We have been learning about Earth and space in **science**, and worked scientifically to show how the rotation of our planet causes the sun to appear to move across the sky, and affect the shadows of objects around us change over time. We were grateful for some sunny weather on that day!



Alongside all of these activities, we have had a skipping workshop to supplement our learning in **PE**, used Minecraft in **History** to recreate the Roman fortress in Exeter, based on the description given to us by the RAMM, and visited another school to spend some time with other Year Six students as part of our **transition**!



Well done to everyone in Willow Class for their efforts this year. Good luck to all of the Year Sixes who are moving on to their new schools!



Willow Class

We had a lovely trip out a few weeks ago, and spent the morning at Haven Banks on the canal, before walking up through Exeter to see how the city has changed over time, before ending up at the RAMM to see how artefacts help give us a clearer picture of historical events. We had a great time!



Beech Class

In June, the pupils in Beech Class enjoyed their trip out to Shaldon Zoo. The weather was perfect and our plan came together well. We had a good train journey and part of this was along the coast - with some lovely sea views. This was followed by our short ferry ride across the estuary, from Teignmouth to Shaldon, which was exciting.



When we arrived at Shaldon Zoo, we were greeted by zoo-keeper Anna and she split us into two groups. One group carried out a true or false quiz around the zoo, while discussing all of the different animals. The other group carried out a fun mini-beast workshop and then the groups swapped activities. The zoo had many species of monkey, including golden lion tamarins, along with northern white-faced owls, blue dart frogs and agoutis. Some of us were brave enough to handle live mealworms in order to feed the hungry meerkats and others of us were confident enough to handle an African land snail, hissing Madagascar cockroach and a stick insect too.



Then we had lunch on the beach and had some free time to explore and play for a while, before our return ferry and train journeys began. We all had a great time, learned a lot and would recommend a visit to Shaldon Zoo to other pupils.



In Beech Class we were also able to spend some time revisiting our previous learning from last half term about the story of the Trojan Horse. During the morning, we dressed up and spent some time trying some food that would have been eaten in the era of ancient Greece, including olives which divided the crowd!

We also carried out a retrieval quiz to see what we remembered from our history work and also went on to study some key gods and goddesses, who were worshipped, and look at the temples where sacrifices to them were made.



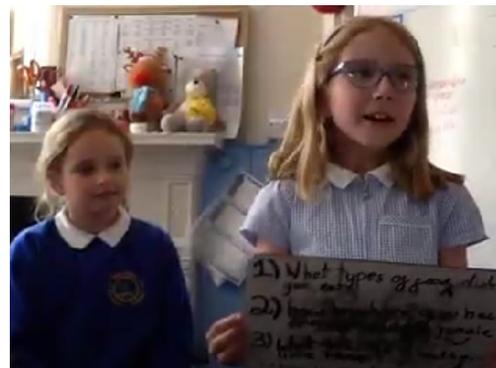
Then in the afternoon we were treated to some fantastic storytelling activities with our visitor - Steve Manning. He showed us some replica artefacts that Greek warriors would have been ordered to use in battles and some of us volunteered to see what it would be like to wear them - they were hot and heavy! Then he transformed into Odysseus and told us all about his long and adventurous journey home. We were transfixed by his story and hung on his every word.



In Science, this half term we have been learning about reversible and irreversible changes. This has been very hands-on with experiments into how long it takes a biscuit to dissolve, what happens to an egg in water, vinegar and coke, and finding out how cakes rise. Finally, the class decided how to separate out different impurities to make pure water. This also helped to inform our writing of a survival guide.



In literacy, the children learnt about different types of shelter to build, where to look to set up camp and researched other useful skills like fire building and alerting a rescue team. They practised presenting survival tips in a newsroom format. Then this knowledge was used to write their own formal text on a survival guide to their own chosen area.



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