

Magnificent May

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School May 2023

Welcome to this half terms newsletter which shares some of the things the children have been involved in throughout the first half of the summer term. Like always, it has been busy, and celebrating The Coronation involved the whole school.

The Coronation

After some great rehearsing with Miss Clarke, the Year 5s in Beech and Willow Class went on to do a brilliant job of entertaining the whole school on the eve of the coronation of King Charles III with their 'History News' performance.

Some pupils were in the news studio, whereas others were various reporters, interviewing some of the significant kings and queens from the past, including King John, Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth II. We were honoured that Mrs Shilston dressed as Queen Victoria and Mrs Mitchell became Queen Elizabeth I to help us to share some fun and interesting information with everyone.

Willow class artwork—collage of King Charles III.



During the week leading up to King Charles' Coronation, the pupils in Beech Class worked in small groups to make delicious cupcakes with a buttercream topping and chocolate crown. We enjoyed making them but we loved eating them on the Friday afternoon. Many of us dressed in red, white and blue, and few of us dressed as a past king or queen to celebrate this historic event.



For the coronation of King Charles III, Oak Class made some fabulous crowns. The children spent a lot of time ensuring the crowns were detailed and lots of them had

interesting symmetrical patterns. It was so great to hear the pupils complimenting each other and giving each other advice. We also made some yummy cupcakes. We enjoyed making three different flavours and then incorporating the colours of the flag to decorate them. It was a lovely celebration with our crowns and cupcakes.



Ash and Elm Class also thoroughly enjoyed their coronation party to celebrate our new King!



Elm Class

In Science we have been learning about animals. We have learnt the names for different groups of animals - mammals, amphibians, birds, fish, invertebrates - and we have had a go at classifying animals into these groups ourselves by sorting photos of different animals. We have also been learning about animal diets and which animals can be described as carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.

In our Literacy lessons the children have been working really hard on writing their own story based on 'Augustus and his Smile'. They have all tried to include adjectives, verbs and connectives to make their sentences longer.

In art the children have enjoyed making dinosaurs with clay. They enjoyed getting pretty messy!



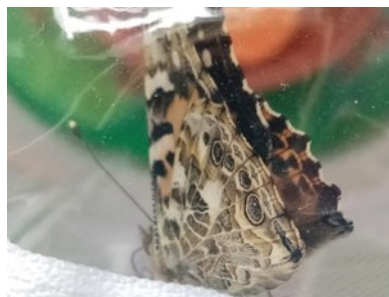
In maths, we have been exploring capacity using water, dried peas and other materials to fill lots of different sized and shaped containers. We are getting really good at describing the capacity of containers using the language full, empty, half full/half empty and nearly full/nearly empty.



Ash Class



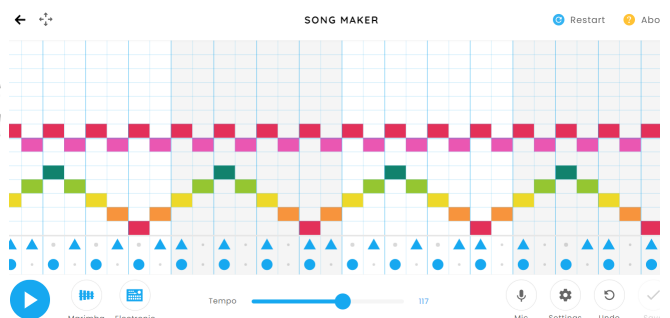
As part of our Science topic "Wild and Wonderful Creatures," the children in Ash welcomed five hungry caterpillars into their classroom. We were fascinated to observe them grow, pupate then finally emerge as beautiful Painted Lady Butterflies. The children are now experts on the process of metamorphosis!



In Art, we have been learning about sculpture and the work of local papier mache artist Sarah Cox based in Ilfracombe. We took inspiration from her bright, colourful sea creatures to design our own sculptures. Over several weeks we learned how to create 3D forms using card, newspaper and PVA glue, then added colour with a layer of tissue paper. All that's left to do now is add the finishing details with acrylic paint. We can't wait to bring our creations home to show you!



In computing, we have been exploring making digital music using Chrome Music Lab. This has allowed us to play around with rhythm, pitch and tempo and produce our own musical patterns.



Oak Class

Pie Charts in Geography - In our geography lessons, we have been looking at how to be more sustainable and why we need to be more sustainable. Most recently we have looked at the differences in the type of energy we used in 2015 and 2020. It was so great to hear how happy the children were to see the rise in renewable energy and the decrease in other sources of energy. This showed their true understanding of the prior lessons. They have created some fantastic pie charts to show this information.



Oak have also had an exciting session with a cricket coach to work on their catching and throwing skills.



They participated in many group activities that involved teamwork and using new skills. The coach was super impressed with their enthusiasm and the children thought the session was 'super fun'.



In English, we watched an intriguing, non-speaking short film called 'Soar'. As a class, we have produced some play scripts to act out parts of the film but with some dialogue.

Oak learnt about the structure of a play script, including: speech direction, narration, punctuation and the description of how someone is saying something. The class enjoyed completing a different piece of writing that they don't usually see or choose to write when completing free writing.



Wednesday 24th May 2023
My Soar playscript
 Scene 2
 [Lucas' wooden plane crashes into the tree. He falls out of the plane and sees Mara]
 Mara: (Gasped for air) Wow, wow, you're so small and cute can I help you?
 Lucas: Don't hurt me... me p.p please but can you help me pl pick up my bag and I, I, I, I'm Lucas.
 [Lucas picks up a sharp and pointy pencil and Mara takes a picture and sends it to her boss.]
 Lucas: Please stay back my parents told me I am a storky boy so I don't need help, thank you very much.
 Mara: OK, I guess I won't help you if you don't need it.
 [Lucas tries to get into his vehicle and falls. He then looks at Mara]
 You have remembered all the features of a playscript Great effort!

Art Project

Pupils in Oak and Beech classes took part in an exciting art project, funded by Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership, and led by local artist Alistair Lambert. He visited the Whimble Heritage Centre, before working with the pupils, and took inspiration from the history and artefacts of Whiteways' Factory and the images of the local orchards that were on display there.



Half a class at a time, pupils worked with Alistair to produce bold and colourful collages, based around the yearly apple growing cycle, which will be incorporated into a large art panel that will be mounted on the railings at the school end of the platform later this year. Many of our collages are on display in the reception area so do pop in and take a look at them.



Beech Class

On the 18th May pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 challenged themselves to work in groups to complete orienteering courses in the grounds of Killerton House. It was a beautifully sunny day for them to try to work as a team to read the map and attempt to navigate themselves around the open area in front of the house to find eight controls. Several groups showed good resilience, especially when searching for the less obvious controls on the second course that were located at the top of the hill.



In Design Technology and English lessons, we have been writing sets of instructions for making a night light, after we had built one, following our own designs.



While planning and then making our nightlights, we thought carefully about how to troubleshoot issues with joining the base and shell together. We also spent time ensuring that our electrical circuits worked that made our bulbs light up. At the end we evaluated our outcomes and we hope that you like them too.

Last Friday morning, Mrs Hudson, the Maths outreach teacher from Colyton Grammar School, came to teach the pupils in Beech Class and set them some reasoning challenges which were set in different contexts.

The children were really thoughtful, and showed resilience, when working out answers to all of her questions, as they extended their understanding of identifying shapes within larger shapes.

The final challenge involved them drawing on a mug to make sure that each house shown had the same services without any wires crossing. It was tricky at first but many of them worked out the solution in the end.





Earlier on this term we had two more forest school sessions. During the first one, we cooked an apple dessert on the fire and were so busy making and eating it that we forgot to take any photos!



The second week we worked in pairs or small groups to use both our imagination and items from nature, which we found in the school orchard, to create a park within a rope boundary. Some of us designed theme parks whereas others went for parks to attract wildlife. The results were really interesting and we showed teamwork and resilience when making them.



Finally, the pupils in Beech Class studied the work of American sculptor and monster creator, James Rosso. Then they designed their own mini-monsters and went on to mould and shape them from air dry clay, before going on to paint them with bright acrylic paints. They all worked hard to join any pieces of clay to each other correctly and to add surface detail to their clay monster, using carefully selected tools.



Willow Class

The summer term seems to have snuck up on us this year, but we are delighted to have some sunshine at the moment!

Firstly, I'd like to say a really big well done to all the children in Year Six who coped so well with their SATs tests a few weeks ago. Learning to cope with pressure is a key skill necessary for later in life and it was great to see the comradery among the group.

Here are some details of the other learning happening in Willow Class in a busy first half of the term.



In **computing**, we have been learning about how variables can be changed to make games easier or harder. There has been some great collaboration among the group, and the children have shown a lot of teamwork skills to support each other when manipulating the code in Scratch.



We have enjoyed playing each other's games too, and have seen how remixing is a great way to develop other ideas into our own work.



You may well have seen the super-sized King Charles III in the playground on the Coronation weekend, and we enjoyed working with collage and paint to use and consolidate the skills learnt in **art** lessons earlier this year.



In **music** lessons we have been listening and responding to different pieces of music. We have sung songs from different cultures around the world this year and now we are learning to compose our own pieces using the glockenspiels we have in school.



The summer term can be a challenge for lots of reasons, but those further up the school in Key Stage Two do often struggle with the idea of transition to a new school. To try and support this, and the other big events coming for many children, we worked with an outside provider to have an Emotional Logic session, as part of our **PSHE** learning. This talked specifically about how anxiety is a normal emotion that keeps us safe in lots of occasions, and how to 'move on' from challenges in our lives.



To supplement our learning in **PE**, we took part in a cricket workshop, where we talked through the five key skills in this sport. Bowling with a straight arm proved very tricky!



We also went to Killerton House for an orienteering activity a few weeks ago. This was a great chance for the children across Years Four, Five and Six to mix and work together and have to make some independent decisions about how to solve a problem. There were a few tired faces on our return!



Finally, as part of our support for all children as the weeks progress, we have been working in small groups to develop those key methods of interaction as outline in the **Skills Builder** programme.

Here we are working as a team to transport some toxic waste from one area of the playground to another without it touching the floor!



May Blossom Music and Dance event

The pupils from years 4,5 and 6 all followed musicians Emma Palmer and Jim Causley to the MUGA area, next to the orchard, and worked in groups to learn an intricate dance to a lively piece of traditional music.



It is said that holding this apple blossom event, will spur on the apple trees to develop an abundance of fruit that will then ripen towards the end of the summer, ready to be harvested in the autumn.



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