

# Optimistic October

## Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

October 2024

Welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter in which we share some of the things the children have been involved in throughout the first half-term.

Parents new to the area and particularly Whimble, may not understand the relevance of apples to us. Much of the village was owned by Whiteways Cider and many local people were employed by them. Houses have now been built on most of their land.



As a school, we believe it is important to celebrate the historical aspects of our village, consequently every year children collect apples and press them in the autumn term.



Older children usually take part in our annual wassail after Christmas (a celebration to help promote a good harvest) and then we also try to celebrate the spring blossom arriving in some way. If you have a particular interest in this, along with other things historical, the Heritage Centre in the village is a fabulous place to visit.



## Elm Class

The children have settled well into their new class and have enjoyed exploring their new learning environment and getting to know new friends.



In Literacy this term, the year 1s have been focusing on the poetry book 'What I Like!' They listened to noises around the school and then chose their favourite area to write a poem about using a noun verb pattern.



In our PSHE Jigsaw lessons, we have enjoyed lots of circle time sessions. The children had to pass round Jigsaw Jenie and have discussions based upon 'Being in my World'.



In Art, we have been focusing on the artist Jackson Pollock and using the technique of painting. We explored colour mixing first using the 3 primary colours to make some secondary colours and then created our own piece of abstract art using paint, string and straws.



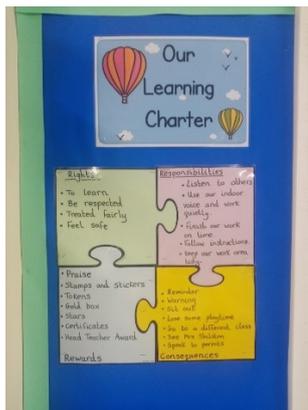
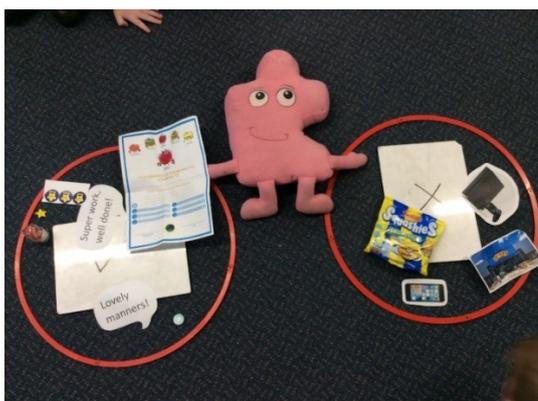
In our Science lessons, we have been learning about our bodies, our senses and how to keep healthy. We have made special listening ears to help us to focus on the sounds around us, used our senses to sort fruit and vegetables and thought about different types of foods and what foods we would choose to make a healthy lunch box. We have also talked about germs and why it is important to wash our hands before we eat and we have been learning about good oral health and how to keep our teeth clean and healthy.



## Ash Class

### PSHE

The children in Ash Class have been helping Jigsaw Jo to find out about what happens at school. We discussed our rights, responsibilities, rewards and consequences during circle time and put all of our ideas together to create Our Learning Charter.



## Ash Class



## Forest School

It was lovely to be back in the orchard again this half term. Ash Class listened carefully as Mrs Wall explained how to use tools safely and sensibly to make their own elder wood beads. We were very proud of our finished product.



## Science

In Science we have been learning all about our amazing bodies and how to keep them healthy. We learnt about the need for balanced diet and how to clean germs from our hands. Our favourite activity was testing our five senses with lots of laughing and surprises.



In Art, we have been exploring portraits. We have looked at Picasso portraits and produced our own in the 'cubist' style. We had great fun being creative with these!

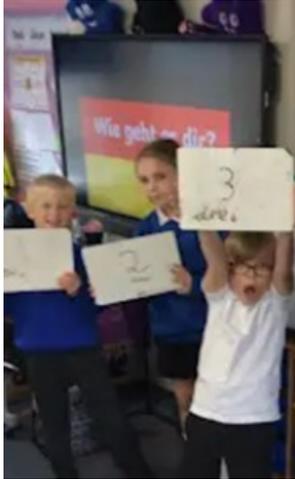
We have also drawn our own self-portraits and thought carefully about the position and detail of our facial features. We then painted a copy of our portraits to reflect Picasso's 'blue period' by using mainly blue but creating other shades using green, yellow and red.



## Oak Class

We've had a very busy first half term in Oak!

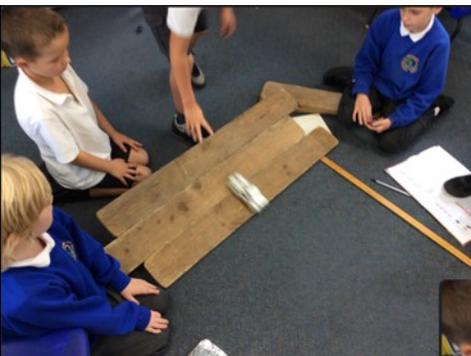
To celebrate the European Day of Languages, we learned about Germany. We looked at some pictures of the country's fascinating landscape, listened to the German national anthem and had a taste of some German food!



In English, we started this term working with Grammarsaurus which helped us to understand accurate sentence structure. We have also been using the book "The Beasties" and we have written our own version of a beastie story using some of the writing features we have been learning.

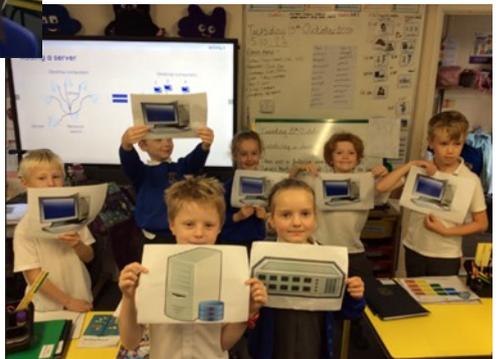
This term in PE, we have been learning netball skills including chest and overhead passing and dodging. We have improved our footwork and throwing techniques, working together as a team to support each other's learning.

In Science, we have been learning about forces and magnets. We have conducted experiments to investigate the effect that different surfaces have on the amount of friction produced, ensuring a fair test and accurate results. We also investigated magnetic and non-magnetic metals around the school - with a few surprising results!



Our History topic this term has been on the Iron Age. We have studied a range of artefacts and thought about where they were found (including why many artefacts have been discovered underwater!) and what this might tell us about this historical time.

In Computing, we have been learning about computer networks and how all of the different parts of a network are connected to help people work and play efficiently together.



In Art, we have been looking at the technique of collage and how Matisse used shapes and colours to layer and create images. We imitated some of his work and then used this to inspire some collages of our own.

We had two great sessions at Forest School this half term, learning how to use hand drills and saws. We also saw some inventive uses of sticks and apples!

## Beech Class

During our recent English unit, we spent time acting out key events in The Whistling Monster story and photographing them. We worked well in groups to show parts of the plot and then sequenced the images to show the whole story. Then we could refer back to this document when we were retelling the story and planning our own versions of it.



For European Languages Day, on September 24<sup>th</sup>, we learnt about some aspects of Italian life. We sang a nursery rhyme called " Il cocodrillo come fa? " all about the noise a crocodile makes and also tried some classic Italian food, including pizza and gelato.

In some of our French lessons, we have been learning about other countries that speak French and finding out how to explain where these places are in the world.



On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October, we had our first Forest School session of this school year. Some of us had a go at developing their sawing skills in groups, while others of us made bases and dens, or engaged in imaginative play, using items from around the site. It was lovely to be outside where we could have space and enjoy being in the fresh air. We are all looking forward to our next session after the half term holiday.



In PSHE lessons, we have spent time thinking about our own rights & the responsibilities that go with them. We have also learned how following agreed rules & having roles during group activities help us to achieve a successful result, such as a freestanding structure.

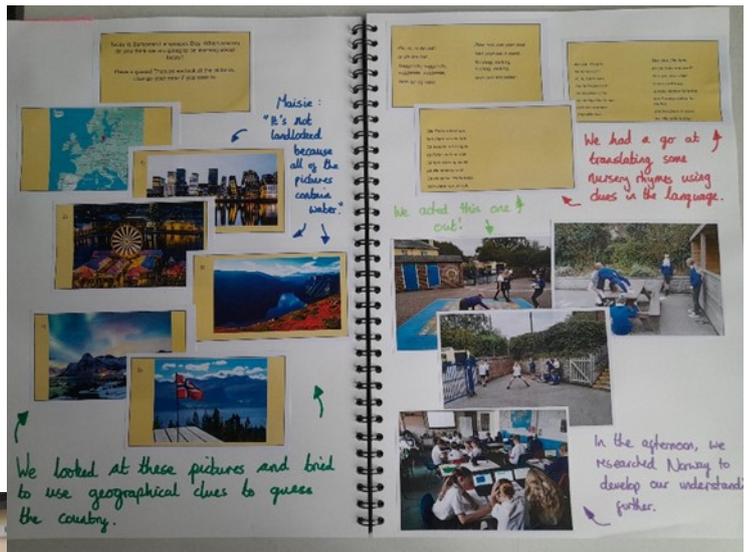
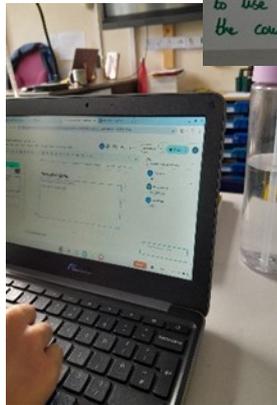


## Willow Class

Welcome back to the new academic year everyone - we have had a really positive start to life in Willow Class and have been thinking hard about our learning.

For **European Languages Day**, we focused on Norway, and spent some time learning songs and rhymes in Norwegian. Here is our **Class Book** which we use to show our learning in subject such as MFL, design technology, computing and PSHE.

In **computing**, we have been learning about how the internet works, and how to communicate effectively and safely. We acted out how to pass messages between routers, and have been working collaboratively on different projects using the 'chat' function.

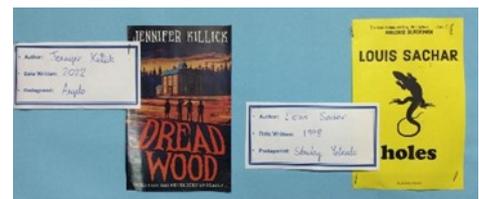


In **PSHE**, our topic is 'being me in my world', and we have been learning about empathy and understanding. We've used these skills when working with our **buddies** in Elm Class, to support their start in school.

In **science**, we have been learning about electricity and how to create circuits using different components. We've worked to try and uncover what happens when we change the voltage in a circuit and how this affects bulbs and buzzers - it's been noisy at times!



And finally, we have made our way through two fantastic class novels in our **shared reading** time: *Holes* by Louis Sachar, and *Dread Wood* by Jennifer Killick. Both are very different (although we have found lots of connections!) but equally brilliant in their own right.



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