

Outstanding October

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School October 2025

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. As always it has been filled with learning through a wide variety of activities and tasks.

Over the past week or so, children have been involved in our annual apple pick at our orchard site at Slewtan Crescent. The children worked well together to collect bagful's of apples. The apples will go off for cider making and some will be kept for juicing after half-term.



Willow Class

Willow Class have had a fantastic start to a new school year, and have settled in well.

As part of our **PSHE** curriculum, the Year 6s have been learning how to ride safely on the road – a really important skill in our community with the tight lanes around the village! We have been taking responsibility for supporting our school community by counting team points each week ready for assembly.



In **science**, we have been working scientifically to find out what happens when we change the components within a circuit, and how we can overcome some unexpected consequences as we do so.

Our **history** topic for this term is *Why did the ancient Maya change the way they lived?* and we have had some fabulous creative homework brought into school. This topic will continue into the second half term where we will finally answer our question!

We really enjoyed listening to the Jewish Museum of London's school's broadcast earlier in the term, which helped us to retrieve our knowledge of Rosh Hashanah and the Jewish New Year, as part of our studies in **RE**.

In **literacy**, we have written some adventure stories, have finished the book *Wonder* and started our new novel *Crater Lake* and this week we are writing some blackout poetry in line with Black History Month – watch this space... we hope to share these with you soon!

Well done to everyone who has brought in homework so far this term – we have had a brilliantly wide range of artwork, research, inventions and models linked to our topic learning. It's great to see everyone taking so much pride in working at home to supplement their learning.

Well done for a great first term everyone!



Ash Class



In Literacy, we have been learning to retell the story *Boa's Bad Birthday* by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross. We made predictions by looking at the front cover, created a story plan with actions and took it in turns to act out the story using props, masks and stick puppets. After spending some time practising our spelling and handwriting, we are now ready to write our own versions.



In History we have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. We learned about how the fire started in 1666 in a bakery in Pudding Lane and how people at the time tried to save their homes and belongings using very basic equipment such as fire squirter and long hooks. We made these Tudor style houses similar to those at the time of the fire, again using the collage technique, and we will create a classroom display with them.



In Art this term, we have been studying collage and the work of Megan Coyle. She created a range of animal pictures that almost look like paintings! We enjoyed creating our own versions, even though it took a lot of time and patience! We used a range of papers and magazines and chose a variety of colours and shades to make them look effective.





It was lovely to spend some time in the orchard again this half term. We enjoyed cooking on the open fire and working together to create natural art inspired by transient artist Andy Goldsworthy.



Ash and Beech Classes also went to collect apples together. There was lots of our focus skills for this half-term evident—Teamwork and Listening.



Beech Class

This first half term has been a busy one. In preparation for future learning in History and Geography, we visited the Heritage Centre. The 1920s exhibition about Whimble's orchards was still there for us to see and we had an interesting talk from Tina about the local Whiteways company that made Cydrax - a sparkling apple juice drink. We also heard from Roger, who was once a pupil at Whimble School, about his memories of school buildings and events during his primary years. Many thanks to both of them and Gill Smith for arranging the visit and for giving up their time to talk to us. We are very much enjoyed our trip and learned a lot.



We also had fun doing some paired reading with the pupils in Oak class. We either shared a book together or read different books to each other. We all practised reading fluently and with expression. Some pupils enjoyed reading poetry while others chose fiction favourites or fun fact books. It was lovely to see pupils recommending books to each other too.



Beech Class continued

This term, Beech has been thinking about the Seven Wonders of the Underwater World and creating art work to represent different aspects of them. These are: the Yonaguni Monument, Red Sea, Great Barrier Reef, Deep Sea Vents, Lake Baikal, Galapagos Islands and the Great Blue Hole. The class used paint blowing, shading with pencils and oil pastels, 3D art and sand. We entered this into the competition at Sidmouth Science Week and their wonderful creation won a prize! Well done all.



During this half term in History, the pupils in Beech Class have been studying the Shang period in ancient China. We have used drama, working in groups, to help us act out, understand and remember how royals and nobles used oracle bones. The inscriptions on the bones or shells were questions that could be answered by ancestors who could see and influence future events. After a question was inscribed, the oracle bone was heated until it cracked. A **Diviner** would then interpret the cracks to reveal the answer to the question and inform the nobles and royals.



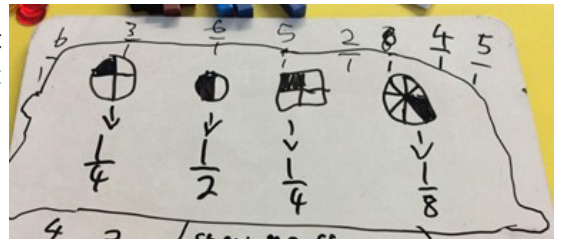
For our Modern Foreign Languages day, we focused on the Champagne area in France. The children learned about how bubbles are made in Champagne using fermentation and created their own bubbly mixture.

Oak Class

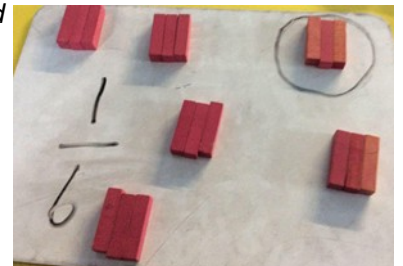
In Science, we have been learning about contact and non-contact forces including friction. This is an experiment where increasing the friction in the bottle of rice meant that we could lift the bottle with a pencil. We also tested the variation of friction between different surfaces. We have been thinking about why friction might be helpful or unhelpful in different situations.



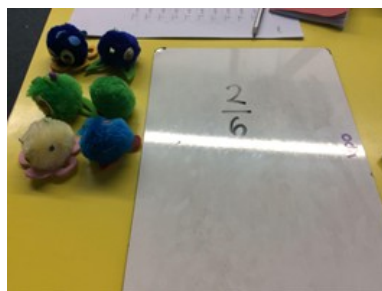
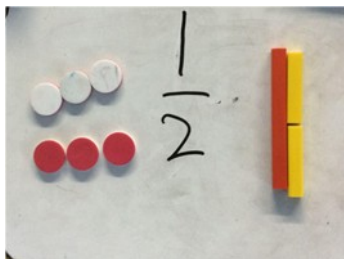
Recently in maths we have been learning all about **fractions** - what they are and how we can see them in real life. A fraction shows that something has been **split into equal parts**, like half a sandwich or a quarter of a pizza.



We've really enjoyed using **visual resources** to help us understand, such as **fraction walls**, **number lines**, **paper folding**, and **sharing counters or cubes**. These activities have helped us see *how fractions work and compare their sizes*.



It's been great fun exploring fractions!



In Forest School, we mixed batter to cook a Scotch pancake on a fire we built. We also built artworks out of natural materials.



Elm Class

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



In Art, we have been focusing on the artist Kandinsky and using the technique of painting. The children enjoyed creating their own version of “Squares with Concentric Circles” using watercolours. They also made some brilliant firework paintings in groups using different resources.



In our Maths lessons the children have been learning about symmetry and repeating patterns as well as counting to 10 and finding one more/one less than a given number.



We have been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali. We learned about how people celebrate this 'festival of lights' and thought about how it was similar to some of our own celebrations. We had a go at making some divas and rangoli patterns.



We also took part in the 'Day of European Languages' at the end of last month by joining in with French Day - we sang songs and learned different greetings. We made French flags and also stick puppets to help us when speaking French!

We have been learning how to listen carefully and take turns to speak with the help of 'Jigsaw Jenie' during our Circle Time sessions.



Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

Website: www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk