

# Majestic May

## Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School Summer First Half - Term

Welcome to our fifth curriculum newsletter for this school year. Another half-term packed with a wide range of curricular activities, including outdoor learning (and weren't we lucky with the weather on those days!)

### Eco News

The Eco-Committee held a competition this term to help create our Eco Code. Each pupil was asked to make their own promise to the planet and present it on an outline of their hand. The Eco Committee then chose the two most appropriate and well-presented promise hands to form our 'Whimble Promise Tree'.



Congratulations and a big thank you to Mitchell, Charlie, Toby, Jackson, Lily, Mikel, Ava L, Poppy, Emily and William for their contribution to our new Eco Code.



Thank you for all your battery donations so far for the 'Recycle to Read' campaign. We've already collected 32kg of batteries and received £30 worth of books for our class libraries.



The children in KS1 have all been keen to take a turn at being litter monitors during break times.





## Elm Class

### Drakes Farm Trip

We had a wonderful day at Drake's Farm last Monday. The children showed great resilience and all enjoyed meeting and feeding the animals, planting seeds and making wormeries despite the wind and rain! Undercover activities included building sandcastles in the giant sand pit and a variety of craft and messy play activities linked to our farm topic. We rounded off the day with an ice cream before heading back to school! The children's behaviour was exemplary and the staff at Drake's Farm commented on this. We are very proud of them all. Thanks to all staff members who voluntarily gave up their time to accompany us on the trip. It is much appreciated.



In Science, we have been exploring changes to materials. We have focused on water and have used our observational skills to record what happens to a block of ice over time and our investigative skills to consider how to warm up a block of ice so that it will melt. We have also discussed evaporation and observed how puddles in our playground change over time. We used chalk to draw around a puddle and measured it, returning to the puddle later on to see what had happened.





In Art, we have been making sculptures. We explored plasticine first and then made our own farm animals using magic clay.



In History, we have been learning about 'Famous Queens'. The children have learnt about Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. They were very good at sorting the photos into the correct time period.



## Ash Class



We have been learning about Africa for our Geography topic and this linked very nicely with our art. We have studied an artist from Tanzania called Edward Saidi Tingatinga. He is well-known for his beautiful African animal paintings. His style has been used in the Tinga



Tales cartoons and books. We created our own animals using simple shapes and bright colours. We then copied these using fabric pens to create some lovely bunting.

We are also learning to weave, taking inspiration from weavers from Ghana who are famous for their Kente cloth. We started with some paper weaving which is actually harder than it seems!



## Ash Class continued

### Outdoor Learning Day

Ash class had lots of fun taking part in an arrow trail, scavenger hunt, team building games and cooking flat breads on the fire. Thank you Mr Nichols for helping us learn more about the outdoors and encouraging us to work as a team.



### Healthy Eating

In PSHE we have been learning about ways to keep our body and minds healthy. We learnt about the Eatwell Plate and thought about how we could try to eat our five a day. In DT we practised preparing fruit by washing, peeling and chopping to create healthy snacks. We enjoyed making (and eating) our fruit kebabs and next week we will be making fruit jellies and ice lollies.





## Oak Class

This half term in Oak, we have been busy with a wide range of learning!

In Science, we are learning about growing plants. We have dissected flowers to investigate the different parts of a plant and find out about the job each part does. We are also conducting experiments to find out whether the number of seeds affects plant growth and making observations of the results.

We have been learning more about Desktop Publishing in Computing and the importance of the choices we make in terms of layout, use of text and images and font style. We have been using different software to try out our own document layouts and we mostly agree that Purple Mash's 2Design is the most user-friendly!



In History, we have gone right back to the Stone Age! We have been learning about the changes that occurred during this long period of pre-history and investigating the evidence which archaeologists believe can tell us something about how Stone Age people lived.

As April marked the end of the month of Ramadan, we started this term in RE by learning about how Muslims fast during Ramadan, learn to be self-controlled and generous, and end the fasting with a celebration, Eid Al-Fitr! We are now learning about what the Bible teaches about Jesus, the Holy Trinity and baptism using parables and stories from the gospels to understand Christian beliefs.

We have been enjoying the drier weather for PE as we've been learning tag rugby skills. We have been developing our teamwork as we look to communicate and pass more effectively, improving our games.

Our Jigsaw PSHE unit this half term has been Relationships. We have been addressing stereotypes, especially in relation to gender roles. We have thought about how we relate to the people around us and how to reduce and resolve conflict as it occurs. It has also been an important part of our learning to consider online relationships and to be especially careful how we communicate online, and with whom.



We started the half term with a residential and we have produced some great writing about our time away, "An Adventure on Dartmoor", based on "A Walk in London", by Salvatore Rubbino. We continued our outdoor experiences with an Outdoor Learning day, where we spent time building dens, starting a fire and making pancakes!





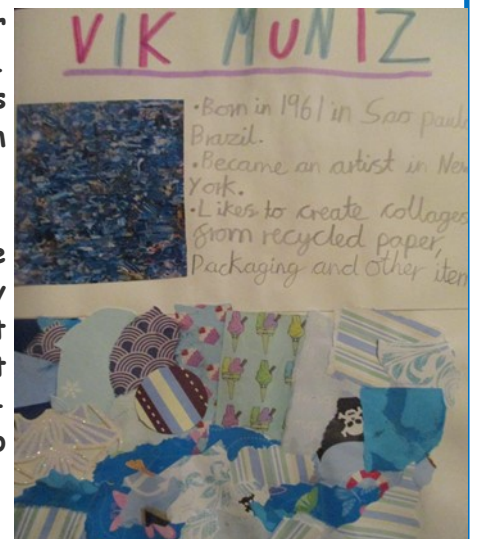
## Beech Class

This half term the pupils in Beech Class have been busy studying artwork and collages created by Brazilian Artist, Vik Muniz. He was born in 1961, in São Paulo, and only began to discover artworks in books that he borrowed from his high school library. He moved to New York in 1983 and began his art career there a few years later.



In 2006, when back in Brazil, Muniz created the series Pictures of Junk, using pieces of discarded packaging and other recyclable materials from a landfill site in Rio de Janeiro. Muniz worked with others to pick out a variety of materials from rubbish piles and then he created large collages from them.

To begin with, the pupils learned about his life and made some artist pages, inspired by his colour themed collages. Then they went on to produce some imaginative collages from cut out shapes from magazines and unwanted pieces of paper - that otherwise would have ended up in a recycle bin. This eco-friendly approach to artwork is something that was fun to do and produced some colourful results.





On Friday 3rd May, Beech Class had a whole day of Outdoor Education, led by Mr Nichols and the Beech Class staff. The pupils played a variety of team games that developed their communication skills first of all.



Then, in groups, they did some whittling of wood, which was challenging but interesting, and also worked to follow a recipe to make some pancake batter.



In the afternoon, the pupils learned to split some wood, did some shelter building in small groups and also spent time in the fire circle cooking and eating some yummy pancakes. We all had a lovely day in the fresh air and enjoyed looking for wildlife, observing the blossom on the apple trees and listening to the birds singing.





## Willow Class

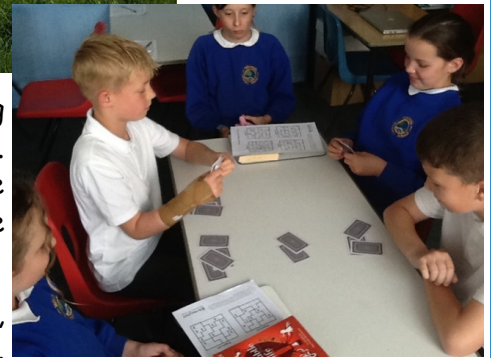
We've had a very busy half term in Willow Class and the children have done remarkably well to cope with the amount of learning we have done, while considering SATs tests and looking ahead to some big changes in September.

We loved ending that week with some time to play, cook and take part in some team building activities. We had a great day!



As part of our learning in **PSHE** this term, we have been focusing on relationships and the way that we communicate with others. We have been playing a range of games which put us in some difficult positions, and have had to cope with some competitive situations! Crazy 8s certainly got crazy!

We've been thinking about **transition** to secondary school too, and will continue this work into the second half of the summer.



In our **writing**, we have been learning about non-fiction texts, and how the features of these differ to a story. We used the fantastic text *Everest* as a model and have written our own work about various explorers from history.



We have continued to take on roles and responsibilities across the school too and our **team point** system has been very efficiently managed this year. Amelie and Eleanor have taken over from Amelie and Rosie - great job girls!

We have really enjoyed our **history** topic this term; we have learned about the changing roles and rights of women over time.



We have been shocked to learn about the inequality between men and women over time, and how the suffragettes worked to change this in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Other areas of learning from this term include some fantastic golfing in **PE**, a new class novel as part of our **reading journey** and learning about how the circulatory system works in **science**. Trying to make our heart rates at least double from the resting rate was a great way to start the day!



## Year 3 and 4 Residential to Okehampton

On Friday morning, the Year 3 pupils went on an interesting hike, led by Mr Nichols, that involved walking up some hills and seeing some lovely views of the country countryside and wildlife in the Okehampton area and on Dartmoor National Park.



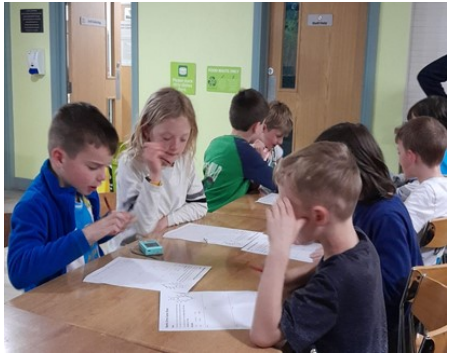
When the pupils first arrived at the Okehampton Youth Hostel, they walked to a nearby park and had some playtime, before we ate our packed lunch. It was a beautiful sunny day and they all enjoyed themselves.



The Year 3 pupils also took part in some physical challenges and exciting activities during Thursday afternoon and challenged themselves to aim, balance and climb.







On Thursday afternoon the Year 4 pupils completed a challenging hike in the April sunshine. In the end, they walked approximately 8 km and this involved following a stream and also scrambling up some hills and moorland.

All the pupils kept positive and had stamina. They all made it back to the youth hostel in time for their tea and then went on to enjoy a beetle drive and roasting marshmallows on the campfire in the evening.



Lots of people enjoyed their meals and ate well, especially their cooked breakfast.





While the Year 3s were on their hike, the Year 4s learned how to do grass sledging, to work as a team to complete a challenge and to throw axes at a target. They all listened well and gave all the activities their best effort.



Finally, everybody picked up their luggage and travelled by train, and then coach, to get back to Whimble again. What a busy and exciting two days away from home!



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