

AwesomeAutumn

Curriculum Newsletter

for Whimble Primary School October 2023

Welcome to our first curriculum newsletter for this academic year - as always, we have managed to fit a lot in over the past few weeks, ensuring a wide range of opportunities and experiences for all of our children. This newsletter gives you a flavour of some of the things that have been going on in each class.

Dogs Trust

Last week, we were lucky to have the Dogs trust visit the school and undertake workshops with children across the school (Year 1 to Year 6).

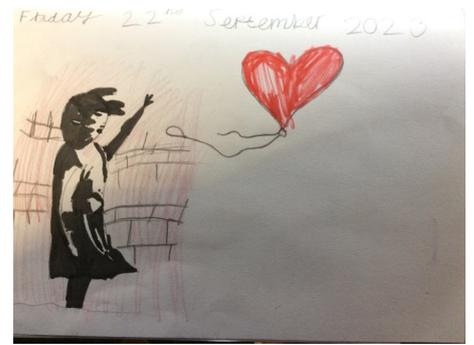
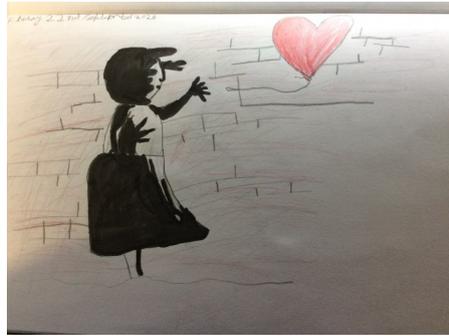


The workshops revisited the content of the assembly and then acted parts of the scenarios out.

Children were taught how to ask permission from the dog's owner, their parents and the dog. They practised how to do this and how to understand whether the dog has given its permission. They were shown how to approach a dog as well as what to do if they were uncertain, scared or knocked over by a dog. The information was very clear and useful.



Oak Class



Art

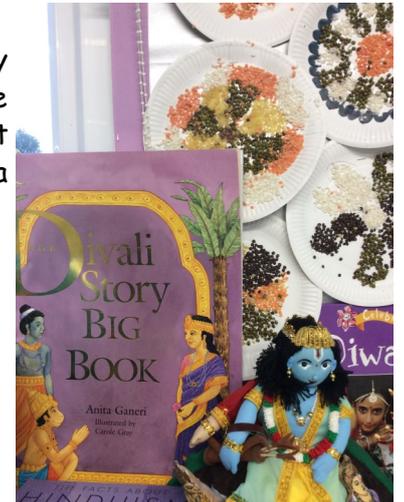
In art, Oak have enjoyed learning about street art. We learnt about Banksy and his mysterious ways, along with his amazing pieces of street art. Pupils even had a go at replicating one of his famous pieces.

We then made our own graffiti alien and our own tag (name/initials) which you can see here.



RE

Oak have had a great time learning about the celebration of Diwali. They made some lovely rangoli patterns using seeds and a paper plate. The children had to listen carefully to the instructions to make sure it didn't all fall off. Mrs Wall has also helped us to make some beautiful diva lamps which will be coming home soon.



French

During our French day we made some fun flags out of pompoms. When you opened the flags you could read and see lots of places and objects that made us think of France. We also took the time to work in groups to produce some exciting posters, as we explored France through some books.



Elm Class

Elm Class have had a great start to the Autumn Term. The children have settled well into their new class and have enjoyed exploring their new learning environment and getting to know new friends.

In our Science lessons, we have been learning about different animals and habitats. We explored the school garden to find out which creatures were living there. We made and observed our very own woodlouse colony and have been making sure the woodlice feel at home! We have been thinking about what makes a good pet and how we would take care of a pet to meet its basic needs. We have learnt the special names for different groups of animals - mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates - and have been sorting animals into these groups.



In Art, we have been focusing on the artist Kandinsky and using the technique of painting to recreate Kandinsky's Concentric Circles. In Geography, we have been learning about the UK countries and their capital cities and then locating these on a map.



We enjoyed French Day in Elm class by learning some greetings in French, making French flags, cooking and tasting crepes and learning some French songs. We also made some puppets which we used to help our confidence to speak and sing in French!



Willow Class

What a fantastic start to the new academic year so far! It has been great to settle into class and start to get down to the hard work of being in Years Five and Six.



In **history**, we have been learning about the ancient Mayan civilisation and how and why this changed over time. We have discussed the presentation of our work and how important it is to show our understanding in a clear and thoughtful way.

Well done girls!



We have had some fantastic **homework** in so far this term - it has been great to see the children taking so much responsibility and ownership over their work.



In **computing**, we have been learning how data and information is shared using the internet, and working collaboratively in both Scratch and Google Slides. We found it challenging to accurately encode the messages we sent around the classroom to make sure that they got to the correct place!

On **French day**, we really enjoyed reading some dual-language texts and using our understanding of language to try and translate these. We worked hard as a team in line with our **Skillsbuilder** focus to try and make something as spectacular as the Eiffel Tower!



And finally well done to all of the Year Six children for taking part in **Bikeability** over the past week - learning to cycle safely is a really important life skill and one that is particularly useful in a village setting.

A great start to term for all involved with Willow Class - have a great break and we look forward to continuing our learning after half term!

Beech Class

Towards the start of our History unit of work about aspects of the Shang Dynasty, pupils in Beech class worked together really well in groups to act out the selling of some 'dragon bones' in a market in Beijing to a local man called Wang Yirong. He noticed many inscriptions on the bones and shells (actually from real animals). Later, he showed them to his historian friend and they began to study them to see what they could discover. We have now learned that this was the first evidence of the Shang people, who lived in an area of China around 3,000 years ago. and we are looking forward to finding out loads more about how they lived and what they believed in during next half term.



During their first Forest School session of this school year, Beech Class learned the skill of whittling in order to make a 'Whittled Wizard' (a bit of a tongue twister to say) out of a small piece of wood. Mrs Wall taught the pupils how to hold their whittling knife safely and use it effectively. All the pupils worked really hard and tried to take their time to make one end of their stick pointy so that part could become the wizard's hat.

Afterwards, they could add features to make their wizards more characterful and some the pupils named them as well. The pupils also did some den and shelter building too, showing their previous knowledge of tying knots and demonstrating their teamwork skills too.



In Science, we have been considering how particles react when heated and cooled, to understand states of matter. This half term, the children were practising how to report their findings through drama, film and presentations.



We enjoyed our French Day, creating a cafe experience in the classroom and practising our polite French conversation.



Gardening Club

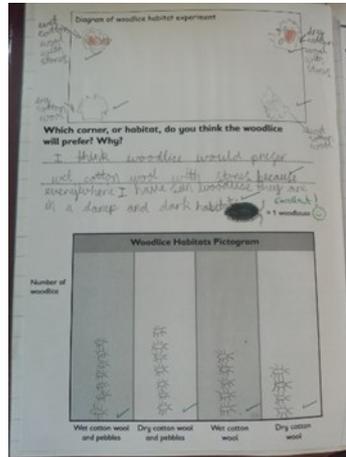
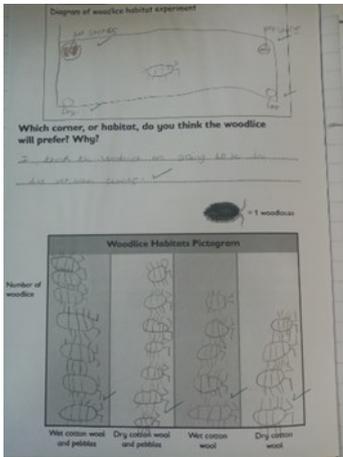
Gardening club have made a big difference in clearing and planting the vegetable patch by Ash class. Thanks to the generation donation of plug plants, we have also begun to plant up the bed near to the hall. We hope to run again next Spring time when we can get to grips with planning and creating some beautiful areas for our school to enjoy.

Thank you to Mrs Boyd and Mr Taylor for supporting the running of this club



Ash Class

In Science, we have been using our investigative skills to find out more about invertebrates. We created different habitats to find out what conditions woodlice prefer and recorded our results in a pictogram. We also made some close observations of snails and shared our discoveries with each other. Just for fun, we held a snail race. The snails moved surprisingly quickly!



Forest School

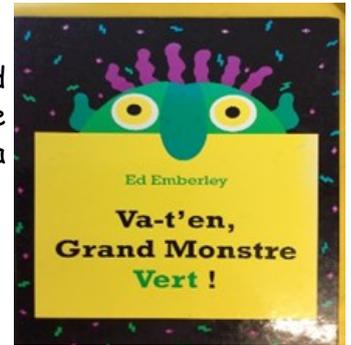
It was lovely to be back in the orchard again. Mrs Wall helped us to cook delicious drop scones on the fire and we also practised using tools to whittle willow mice and necklaces. Thankyou Mrs Wall.



In Art, we have been studying the work of Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama. She is famous for her use of polka dots and pumpkins! We have created our own polka dot pictures in the style of Kusama's 'Obliteration Room', pumpkin prints and 3D pumpkins in clay. It was great fun!



During French Day we read this book (*Go away, big green monster!*) and created our own fantastic versions of the monster. We learned some of the French names for colours, counted to 20, greeted our friends and sang a French song. We had a lovely day.



In music, we have learned a song called 'Music in my Soul'. It is a very upbeat song and we were able to add our own dance moves to it. During the instrumental section everyone had an instrument to play and we tried hard to keep to the beat of the music. We enjoyed playing and performing together.



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