

Joyful January

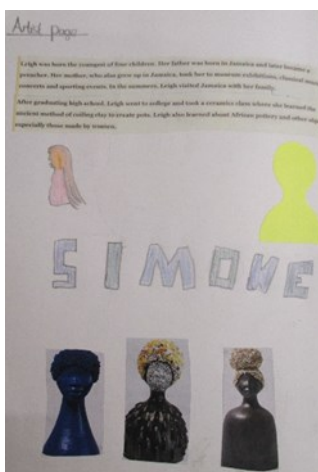
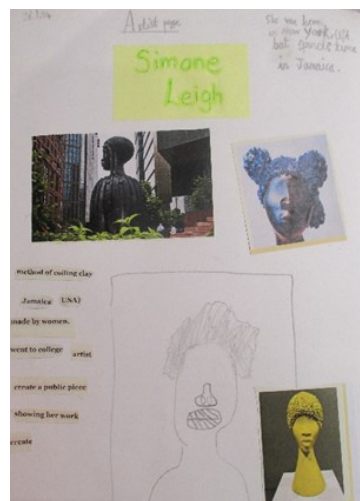
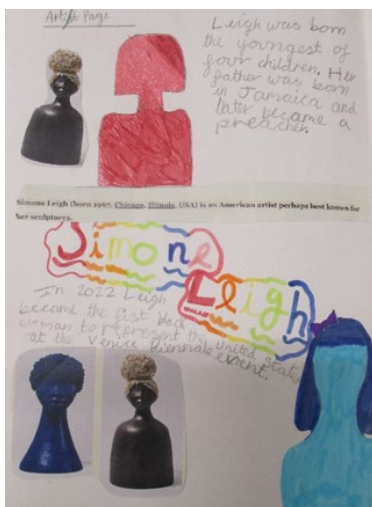
Curriculum Newsletter

for Whimble Primary School January 2024

Welcome to this half-terms newsletter, the third for this academic year. Despite being a short half term, we have still managed to fit a lot in. Hope you enjoying seeing what the children have been up to.

Beech Class

During our study of Simone Leigh, we created an artist page to show information about her life and work. We have also studied the human form and looked at the shapes of forward and sideward facing silhouettes. Next, we will be moulding this out of clay and adding both texture and other decoration.



Beech Class, continued



In Computing, the children have been using Scratch to develop a design that includes two or more loops that run at the same time with some very creative outcomes.



In Art, we have been studying sculpture and looking at the work of Simone Leigh, an American artist. We've been practicing our skills: coiling, rolling and attaching securely using slip.

We had great fun learning a parasol and fan dance with a visiting artist ahead of Chinese New Year. We thought about dancing in canon and unison, and how to use different heights to make the performance more visually interesting.



One day he explained ^{this} to 13 animals: a rat, cat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, horse, snake, goat, monkey, dog and a pig. They lined up but the cat and the rat were poor swimmers and asked the ox for a ride and the ox said, "yes". Soon they jumped on and then the rat pushed the cat into the water (for it to struggle). After that the rat won and the ox was ticked, but he got the second year, the rat got first. ✓

The Chinese Zodiac Story
Thousands of years ago, in ancient China, the wise and powerful Jade Emperor decided there really should be an organised way of properly measuring the passing of time. ✓
one day he explained to some animals that there would be a swimming race and the first twelve animals to successfully cross a fast flowing river would each have a year named after them. ✓

This week in Beech Class we have revisited the country of China. We have studied information about the Chinese New Year festival and also read and discussed the Chinese Zodiac. Then we wrote our own version of the story of how the twelve years came to receive their animal names. We focussed on writing in clear sentences, using our best spelling attempts and joining our handwriting.

All the animals lined up at the start of the race. The rat and cat were scared because they were bad swimmers. So they asked the kind ox if they could ride on his furry back. The ox said, "yes". Then the race began. When they were half way through the river, the rat tripped and pushed the cat in. Next, there were close to the so the rat ran onto the ox's head and jumped off to land so the rat had the first year named after him. ✓
Soon after, the ox arrived and got second place. "Well done," said the Jade Emperor. ✓

The cat and the rat, who were best friends, were worried because they weren't the greatest of swimmers. Kind ox heard their little conversation and offered if would lend a ride across the river. ✓
Soon, the little rat and the scared cat climbed onto the friendly ox's back. Just then emperor shouted, "Ready... Steady... Go!" and the ox swam as fast as his legs could carry him, but just as he about to get to the end, the rat and the cat jumped off. Before the worried cat could even reach the island, the rat pushed cat into the water (to struggle). "Well done," said the Jade Emperor to the proud rat. "I will name the first year of the Zodiac after you." ✓

Ash Class

Design and Technology

This term we have been exploring the structure of familiar local bridges in DT. We really enjoyed testing the stability and strength of different 3D shapes before designing and making a paper bridge for the three Billy Goats Gruff. Finally, we evaluated our bridges against the design criteria. Was it tall enough for the troll to fit underneath? Was it wide enough to cross the river? Was it strong enough to hold the heaviest Billy Goat?



It was wonderful to see the children demonstrate their creativity and resilience throughout the process by testing, learning and making adjustments to solve the problems they encountered. Great work Ash Class!

Literacy

For our core text this half term, we have been identifying specific text features and new vocabulary in a non-fiction book about the festival Chinese New Year. To help us in our understanding of the text, we held our own Chinese New Year theme day with storytelling, food tasting and dragon puppet making. We especially enjoyed taking part in a Chinese dance workshop during which Charlotte, our lovely dance teacher, taught us some traditional Chinese dance movements using fans, ribbons and umbrellas.

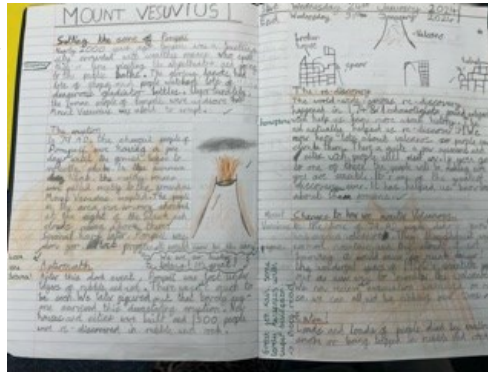
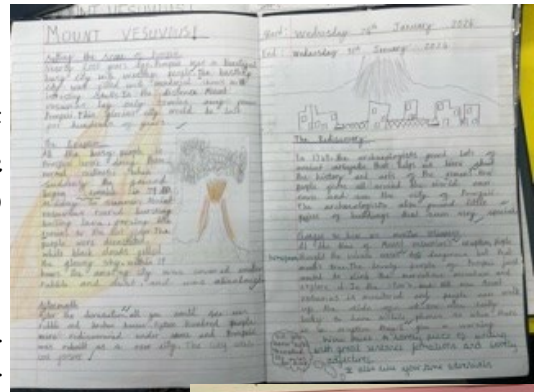


Oak Class

English writing

Oak class have been producing some amazing pieces of writing in this new year. It has been so rewarding seeing the pupils be so excited to finish their amazing work and want to read them aloud to the class.

One piece the class would like to share are our Mount Vesuvius pieces. We produced a double page spread all about the eruption in Pompeii in 79AD. We used features of a book about 'The Great Fire of London' to inspire our writing. The children particularly enjoyed talking about the changes over time and linking how we deal with natural disasters to our earthquake topic in geography.



Geography- Earthquakes

In Geography we have been looking at what causes an earthquake. We had lots of super ideas and eventually discovered earthquake zones and how plates sit under these zones. This led us to learning more about the earthquakes in New Zealand and discovering why they have so many.



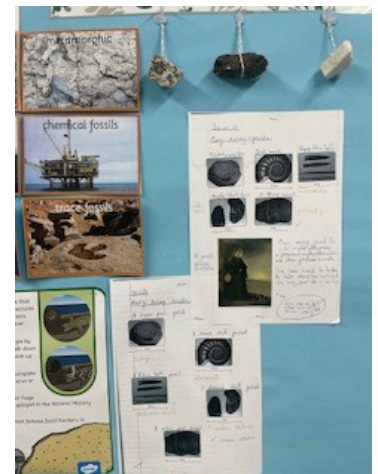
We are the plates colliding!



Science- Rocks

We have also enjoyed looking at rocks, describing them and figuring out what groups to put them in. Some children were able to spot layers in the rock and talk about what type of rock they may be.

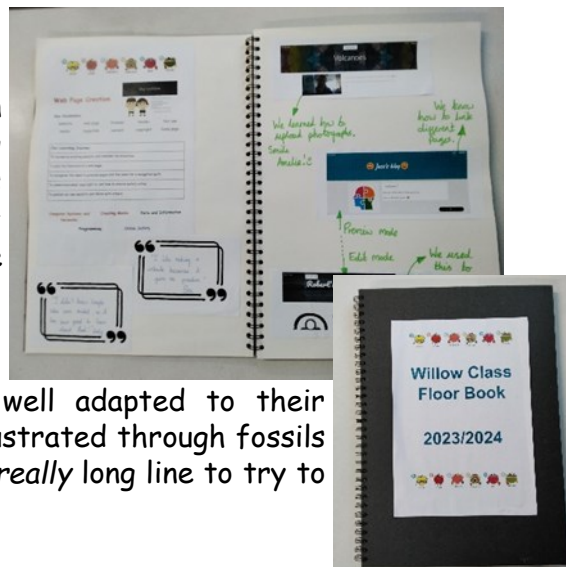
Linked to rocks, we have also learnt about fossils. The different types of fossils and how they are made! The children enjoyed a research lesson around Mary Anning and her discoveries.



Willow Class

What a busy start to the new year we have had! Well done everyone for settling in to the spring term and for working hard across the past weeks.

Our learning in **computing** this term has been focused on making a website, and we have mastered skills in designing meaningful content and thinking about how to link pages together. Each child has made their own blog to document what we have been up to in other subjects - we will share these soon for you to see!

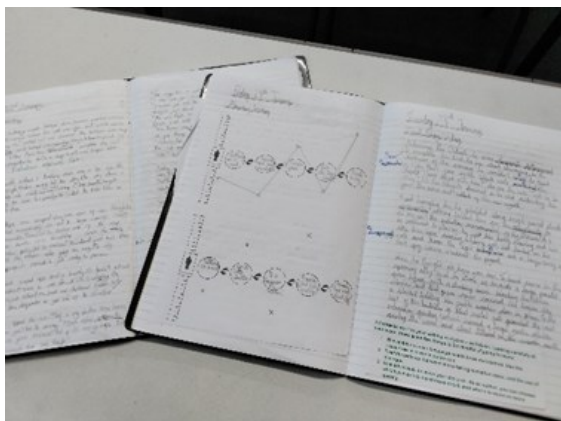


In **science**, we have thought about how animals are well adapted to their environments, and how the process of evolution can be illustrated through fossils over millions of years. We used the playground to draw a *really* long line to try to represent this, and even then it was hard to imagine!



We've been developing our fundamental movement skills in **PE** and have tried to put routines together which consider rolls, balances and transitions. We have had to work quite hard on our *body tension* to try and use these elements under good control. Here we are in our **Chinese Dance** workshop trying out some of these skills.

Our **geography** topic for this term is all about volcanoes and how this affects people who live in Iceland. Look at some of the wonderful homework we have had in!



And finally in **English**, we have used the fantastic text Varjak Paw to write our own extended stories. We have thought about how to use language effectively to give clues to the reader about what is happening.

A great term all round!

Elm Class

Science

In our Science lessons we have been learning about different materials. We have looked closely at some everyday objects and thought about what they are made from. We have carried out some investigations into different materials to find out which ones are waterproof and also which ones are absorbent.



We have taken part in the RSPB Garden Birdwatch and have been learning to recognise and identify some common garden birds. We have found out about the different foods particular species like to eat. We have also made our own feeders for the birds and hung them in the trees to encourage the birds into the school garden. We linked this activity to our recent maths work on weight by using the balance scales to measure out the ingredients.



We have set up our own birdwatching area in the classroom from which we have been able to keep a close eye on the bird feeder without disturbing the birds!



In DT, we have been exploring different structures. The children used different materials to see which were the strongest and why. We also had a go at making our own bridges.



In Art, we have been looking at 'Castle and the Sun' by Paul Klee and creating our own collages. We used watercolours to paint a sunset background first and then cut around different 2D shapes to stick and collage on top.



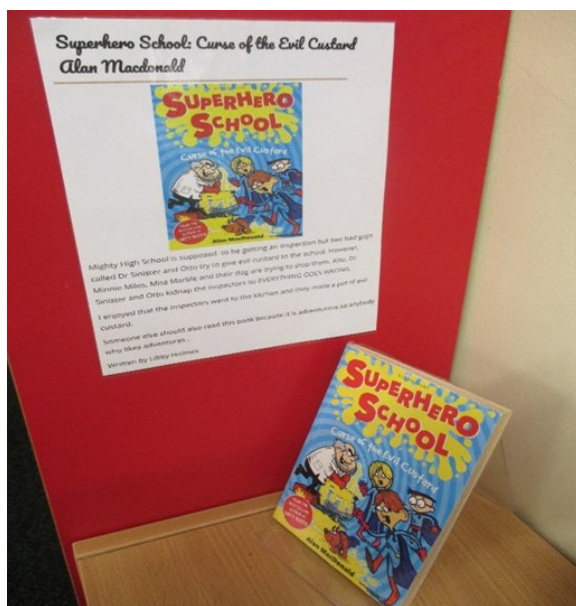
Last Friday, we had great fun with our buddies at the orchard. We worked with them to make our own dens using the tarpaulin and ropes.



On a cold wintery day, we headed out to celebrate the Wassail, with Jack D. and Bea G. as the Wassail Royalty. Thanks very much to Emma Palmer and Jim Causley for taking time to explain the festivities.



Many pupils in Beech Class have also been creating book recommendations to put on display on the library so that we can promote some good books to other pupils who are choosing books.



Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk

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