

Jovial July

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School July 2022

Here we are at the end of another school year, and what a year it has been! This is our final curriculum newsletter and includes a whole range of curricular activities the children have undertaken. It also includes most class trips which helps to support curriculum studies and develop their cultural capital.

Sports Day

The weather just about held off for the event, and many parents and grandparents came along to watch. All the children participated in most activities, despite being very nervous about running in front of an audience.



Ash Class

Ash Class had a fantastic time on their trip to Seaton Wetlands. We started the day with a nature hunt, and then split into groups to explore a range of habitats. We really enjoyed the pond-dipping and managed to catch a range of pond creatures including water-boatman, pond skaters, water beetles and even a stickleback fish! There were beautiful dragonflies swooping around the pond too! In the afternoon, we explored the woods and played a game where we had to stay silent and listen to the sounds all around us. We then created our own 'nature orchestra' by choosing different sounds to make. We used some very big nets to sweep through the long grass to catch mini-beasts. We found some very interesting creatures such as large crickets, grasshoppers, different types of beetles and ladybirds.



In science, we have been learning about living things in their habitats. We planted mini allotments with a range of edible and non-edible plants, and areas that would attract mini-beasts. We created colourful bird scarers to keep the birds away from the allotments.



In literacy, we have been learning about instructions. We enjoyed following instructions to make slime and tasting a range of foods to help us design our sandwiches. We used our knowledge to write instructions to make a sandwich for our design technology.



In art, we have been exploring printing techniques. We created block prints of African patterns and took inspiration from the designs of Orla Kiely to create prints using potatoes!



Oak Class

This half term in Oak class, we had a trip to Kents Cavern in Torquay as part of our history topic, The Stone Age. The children started the day handling replicas that had been found in the cave, including a child's skull. We then explored the cave with our tribe leader, Freddie, who checked the cave was safe. Inside we found out all about life in the cave and how they were formed. In the afternoon, we completed the woodland trail which was a great opportunity to learn more about stone age life, meet a woolly mammoth and have a go at shelter building.



In geography, we have been learning about megacities. As part of this we learnt about why the Brazilian government decided to change the capital to Brasilia. To demonstrate our learning, the children performed their own TV news reports.



In maths, we have been practising our number sense skills. Here are some photos of us learning how to add 8 and 9 to numbers really quickly.



In art this half term we completed our topic focusing on the art work of Brian Rochefort. It was exciting designing and making pots that represented the natural world.



More recently, we started learning about textiles. Looking at the work of Nigerian adire artist, Nike Davies-Okundaye we have designed and made our own tie-dye bags.



In science we have been learning about plants. As part of this we experimented with what plants need and made our own biospheres. Also we dissected a flower to learn the different parts and their role in pollination.



Our focus in design and technology this term has been food technology. For our project, we learnt how to make bread rolls and create a healthy meal. Looking at the eat well plate, we designed a pasta salad that had a variety of nutrients. Creating our salads, we practiced our cutting skills and pushed ourselves to try new foods, which was fantastic!



Elm Class

Science

In science, we have been learning about habitats. We have designed and planted our own mini allotments. We have explored the school garden and our mini allotments to see which creatures have set up home there. We have found out which creatures are useful, and which ones are not useful to our garden. We have designed and made a 'bug hotel' to encourage the useful mini-beasts and we have made scarecrows to discourage the creatures we don't want!



Art

This term, we have been learning about Rainforests; in art we have been designing and creating Shoe Box Dioramas, inspired by Artist Pui Wan Lim. They will be coming home this week for everyone to enjoy. We have also been experimenting using water colours to

paint rainforest animals.



Forest School

This term we have enjoyed going over to the Orchard to do Forest School with Mrs Wall. We have been mostly just exploring the area, as it has been very hot but, we also built dens, used the drainpipes to pour the water though and made mud pies. There may have been a bit of a water fight too on the hottest day!



Farming Topic

We finished our farming topic with a visit from a real life tractor, thanks to Mr and Mrs Barton. Everyone had a little go at climbing in and sitting in the driver's seat. We couldn't believe how big the wheels were! We also got to look at the different types of food that the farmers feed the cows throughout the year.

We thought some of it was a bit smelly!



Pixie's Holt Residential Year 5 and 6

We've been spending lots of time this week reflecting on what has been an incredibly busy term... in an incredibly busy year!



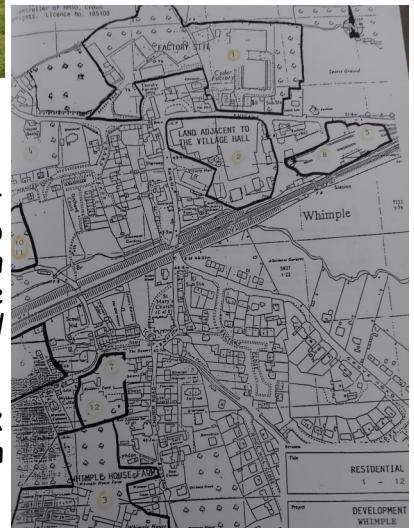
We had a fabulous **residential experience** on Dartmoor last week, exploring the open moorland, cycling over rough terrain and through forests, and putting our resilience to the test in the caves.

All the children showed great responsibility for their own belongings and worked really hard to listen and understand the feelings of those around them. We must say a big thank you to all the staff who took part, but particularly Miss Clarke and Mrs Wall who gave up their entire week to be there for the duration of the trip.



Back in the classroom, we have been learning about industry, import and export in **geography** and were amazed to find out that the ship *The Marco Polo* could carry over 16,000 shipping containers! We then turned our attention to closer to home, and worked to see how the closing of the cider factories in Whimple changed the physical geography of the village.

The **Heritage Centre** kindly shared some resources with us to look at for comparison. (We also loved seeing the Punishments Log from the 1940s - some interesting reading there!)



All of the children in Year 6 have successfully completed their **Civic Award** assessments too. This is an initiative that encourages children to understand, and play a wider role in their communities - from taking up new hobbies, to supporting groups and people living close by. The feedback from Julia Green and Gail Martin-Davies (two of our school governors who supported the assessments) was extremely positive and complementary.

Some of the children worked with local resident Sarah Thackeray to talk about their plans for the future, and how to support positive change in the years ahead as part of this.

We must also say a big thank you to Gail Brown and Liz Roberts for their ongoing hard work to help us complete our **Christmas quilting project**. It had to be postponed at various points in the year due to Covid outbreaks... but we got them finished... in July!



Throughout the year, children in Willow Class have been working at lunchtimes to support positive play with other children in Key Stage Two. This **Play Ambassador** scheme has been really successful, and has helped the children take responsibility for reading their timetable, turning up on time and getting their timesheet signed. Multiple certificates, trophies and rewards have been given so far, and now a few are closing in on the Gold Award (a branded t-shirt that can be worn as part of school uniform) and the Platinum Award (a gift token to be spent online). Well done to everyone who has volunteered their time.

Willow class pupils have been studying the work of an Ukrainian-born French artist Sonia Delaunay (1885-1979) and looking at her use of colour, form and shape.

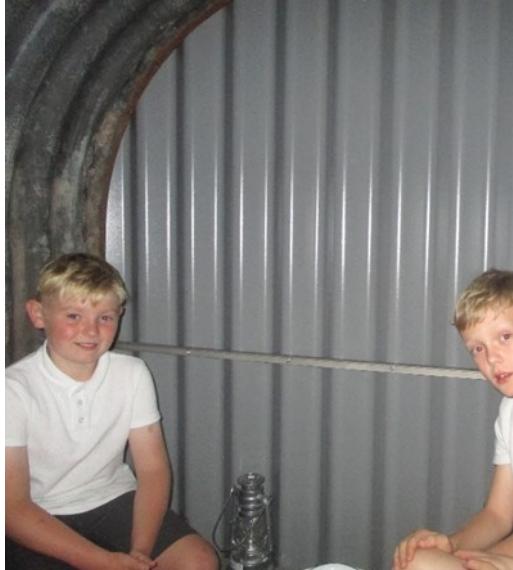
Then, after being inspired by her artwork, everyone planned and then went on to create a sculptures by carefully stacking different layers of shaped cardboard. Cutting out and gluing together the layers of cardboard was tricky but everyone demonstrated resilience and got there in the end. Lots of pupils painted their sculptures whereas some liked the effect of the everyday cardboard. We hope you enjoy looking at the brilliant range of finished outcomes. Well done to all.



Beech Class

Class Trip to Exeter

On Tuesday 5th July, Beech Class visited Exeter Museum to learn more about aspects of World War II. While working in small groups, we carried out five different activities that were led by some very knowledgeable volunteers and based around local people's experiences of living through the war. We found out that food was rationed during the war and that many families grew vegetables so they had greater variety of ingredients to use when creating meals. We also discovered that some people volunteered to join the Home Guard, Civil Defence or Women's Land Army and did this in addition to their day job. We also learned how (in theory) to remove an incendiary bomb from a room and spent time in an Anderson shelter, listening to sound recordings from the Blitz and tried to imagine what it might have been like to take cover during an air raid. It was great day and helped us all learn more about this period of our history.



In PE, we have been focusing on our health and fitness. We have been learning about different components of fitness; speed, stamina, strength, coordination, balance and agility. Trying our best, we have been thinking about what it feels like to work at our maximum, and so improve our fitness levels. This has been through playing ball and agility games, including athletics training.



Earlier this week, Beech Class enjoyed sampling and describing some different types of delicious pasties, (thank you very much to Mr and Mrs Steadman). They did this as part of their food technology work and then everyone was inspired to go on to plan and make their own tasty pasties over the following two days.



Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

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

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