

Memorable May

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

May 2022

Welcome to the fourth edition of our curriculum newsletter which shares some of the things the children have been involved in throughout May. It is a lovely celebration of the curricular activities that have taken place and this newsletter represents only a proportion of them!

A huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers that continue to support us with a wide range of activities in school.

Jubilee Celebrations



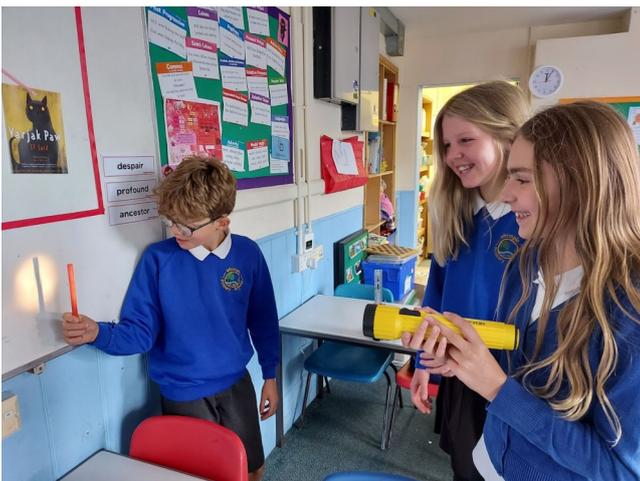
Willow Class

It has been an incredibly busy term in Willow Class! Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Year Six children for all of their hard work during a challenging week of tests earlier in May. We must also mention the Year Fives from Willow too, who were incredibly flexible during that week.



This half term, we have been starting to learn about The Battle of Britain during the Second World War, and the impact of this important period of 1940. We have been plotting this on our Knowledge Map in the classroom, where the geography of our class novels is also visible too.

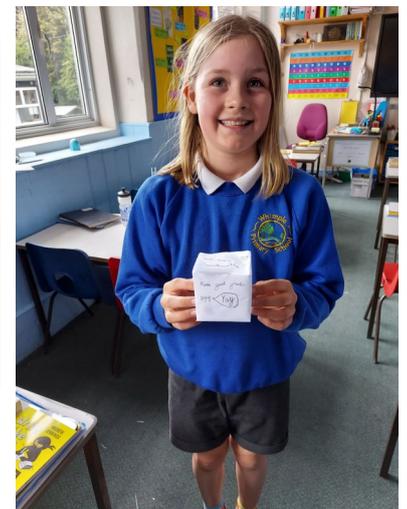
Our class novel at the moment is called *The Valley of Lost Secrets*, which links closely to our historical enquiry. We have made good connections between this and other texts that we have read together, and independently.



In science we have been investigating how light travels and have been observing what happens to shadows when the light source moves further away from the object. Some of us were surprised to see that the shadow actually gets smaller!

Mrs Wall has been working hard with us in our RE lessons too, and during one session we created a small document which helped us to think about ourselves, and our positive qualities. As we move further into the summer term, this continues to be an important part of our personal development.

Children in Willow Class have also been honing their leadership skills by organising games and activities at lunchtime to promote positive play. Lots of children are now making their way towards some serious awards!



We rearranged our class earlier this week to create a shared piece of artwork to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. Hopefully you managed to see it out on display!

Beech Class

In PE, Beech class have been testing and improving their reaction time to help them respond to the activity required in different sports. By selecting different skills to practise and break down into chunks, the pupils have refined their body control and consistency. A great effort was shown by all!



In Science we have been exploring different habitats and posing and answering questions about the things that live there. For example, we have used tree sampling and quadrants to help us think scientifically about the adaptations of animals for their specific environment.



This half term has been another busy one for the Beech Class pupils. As part of our learning in RE, Mrs Wall arranged a visit to Whimple Church for a talk with the vicar, Marc Kerlake, and to also look at some important features within the church building such as the font, the altar (table), the pulpit, the organ, the pews and the lectern. We found out lots of information about the purpose of each feature and also learned about ways that Christians worship now. Everyone listened well and then asked some great questions. Then we spent some time studying and sketching some of the key features as well.



During this half term in Art, Beech Class have been studying the work of a local artist called Chloe Tinsley and looking at how she produces colourful abstract landscape pieces of artwork. We have used her work as inspiration for designing and creating some collages. As part of our unit of work, we went to a local countryside setting and did some landscape drawing so that we could think about how to depict this kind of scene on paper, using viewfinders and sketching pencils to help us. Everyone worked really hard to capture what they could see around them.



Budleigh Salterton by Chloe Tinsley

The pupils in Beech Class have also had two more Forest School sessions as well. During the first one, they made animals out of clay as their structured activity and they also enjoyed creating dens out of found objects and natural materials. All the pupils benefitted from spending time in nature and found it interesting to explore the orchard area to see what was growing again this spring time.



Oak Class

This half term in Oak class we have been learning about the Stone Age. In our hook lesson to reveal our new history topic, we investigated poo. By pulling apart recreated faeces, the children used their historical knowledge to decide whether the poo revealed a Tudor, Roman or Stone Age diet. Firstly, like professional archaeologists, we measured the length, width and height of our specimen. Then using a special tool, we carefully revealed the evidence and recorded our results. In our poo we found berries, seeds, barley, grass, nuts and much more. This lesson has really helped us to understand what life was like for people during our early history.



In Literacy, we have been reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. This topic has been great for helping us to develop our vocabulary and grammar skills. To help spark our imaginations, we tried lots of different types of chocolates and sweets. From our word bank of adjectives, we invented our own magical creations.



In science we have been learning about rocks. During our investigation, we tested lots of different types of rock to find out how hard they are by rubbing them with sandpaper. We also tested the rocks with acid (vinegar) to discover if they were made of the shells of dead creatures. We also carried out a fair test about our skeletons. Our aim was to discover if the longer your femur, the further you could jump. As a class, we measured our femurs and then how far we could jump. Many of us found out that it didn't matter how long your femur was.



In art, we finished our focus on printing by creating a monotype print inspired by Hokusai's 'The Wave'. We applied paint to a flat sheet of foil and then transferred it to paper by rubbing it. Look at how Lyndsey made hers:



Finally, in maths, we have been learning about fractions. To help us compare fractions we cut up some pizzas. We investigated whether the fraction increased in size when the numerator was larger. Also we investigated whether the fraction increased when the denominator was smaller. It was a very yummy lesson and the children have really enjoyed our fractions unit.



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