

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



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Elm Class

Occombe Farm

The children enjoyed a trip to Occombe Farm. They were all very excited! Many of them had not been on a coach before and there was a cheer as it pulled away from the school.



When we arrived they had the chance to make pizza and walk in the herb garden, sampling some of the herbs. Mags, our guide taught us about making flour and about the proving oven.





We had a lovely packed lunch together on the grass and then went to look at and feed some of the animals. Valentine the goat was very keen for some food and everyone enjoyed feeding them. We saw ponies, piglets and guinea pigs.



Art and Design

We have been experimenting with collage in Art. The children used bright colours on a dark background to imitate Paul Klee's Castle and the Sun. They really took their time and paid attention to detail - the results were fantastic.



Food Technology

Our topic this half term is about food and where it comes from so each week we have been looking at and discussing foods that are farmed, caught or grown and creating a Teddy Bears Picnic. We have made Rainbow Omelette Cakes, which everyone tried, despite the peppers and spring onions that we put in, and were mostly well received! Following this we discussed which foods were healthy and looked at having a balanced diet, the children sampled some food from a typical picnic basket, even trying some celery, with mixed reactions.



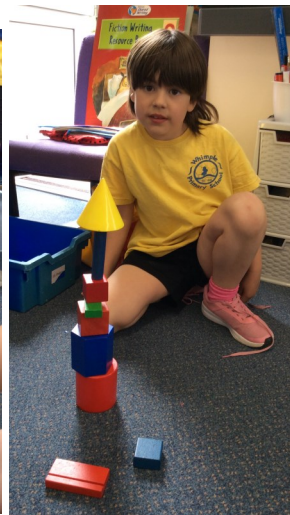
Finally, we made some Teddy Bear Biscuits.
Everyone enjoyed eating these!



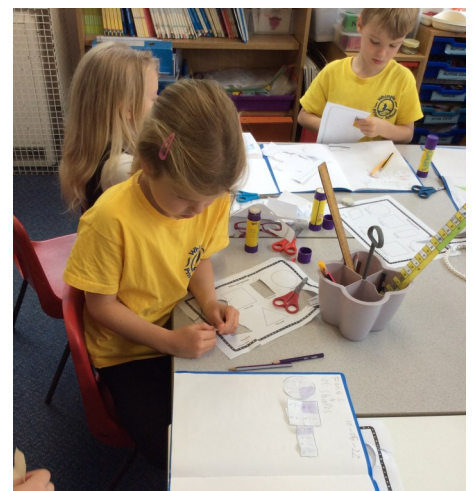
Ash Class



In maths we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We were set a challenge to investigate building with 3D shapes. We had to make given structures from pictures to see which would be possible to build and which would be unstable and collapse. During our group discussions we had to use the correct names for some of the common 3D shapes and describe their properties. We then used the shapes to build our own creations. The architects, engineers and builders of the future!



We have also been learning about fractions in maths. Here, Year 1 are folding a variety of 2D shapes to find halves and quarters. They had to be very accurate with their cutting, folding and marking.



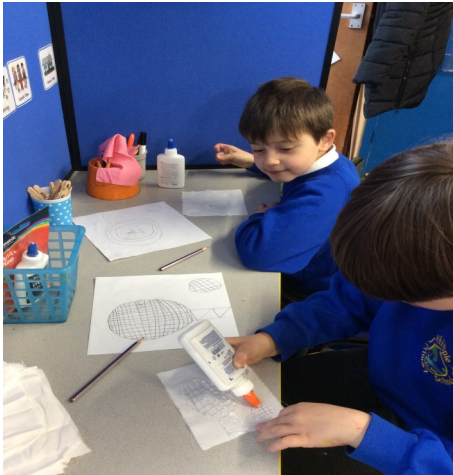
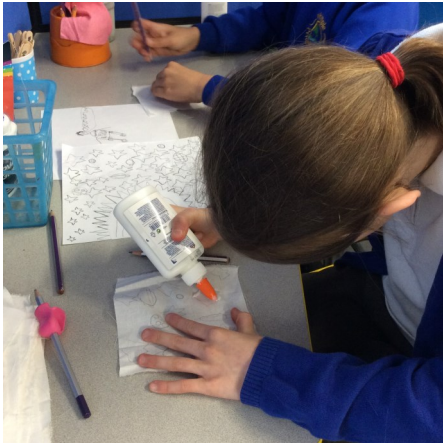


In science, as part of our work on plants, we looked at fruits and seeds. We made observational drawings of the fruits cut in different ways. We used pastel crayons to colour in. This worked well as we could smudge and blend the colours together. We then labelled the parts we could see such as the skin or peel, flesh, core and seeds. Finally, we got to eat up all the left over fruit...delicious!



Our topic for geography this term is 'Let's Go on Safari!' and we are studying Kenya. We have been learning about the different animals that you might see on a Kenyan safari and what kind of habitat they live in. We have also learned about the art work of a Tanzanian artist called Edward Saidi Tinga Tinga. He painted African wildlife in a simple but striking style with bold colours and patterns. We had a go at creating our own Tinga Tinga paintings using a paint program on Purple Mash. It was a real challenge to draw with the tools but we did a brilliant job!



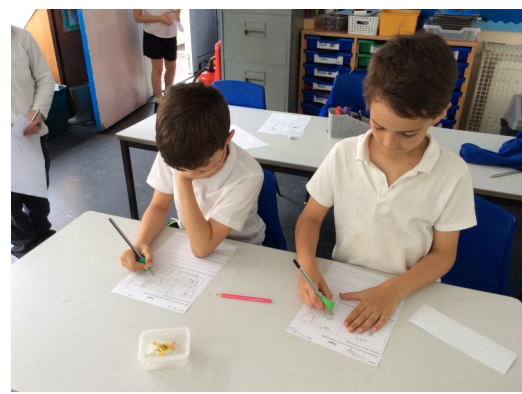


In art, we had a go at 'batik'. This is the technique of wax resistant dyeing applied to cloth. Instead of wax, we used PVA glue to draw over our designs. This proved to be very tricky indeed and we needed a lot of patience and a steady hand. We then use Brusho inks to dye the fabric. The results were variable but we had fun trying out the technique!



Mrs Pearson discovered this little fella hiding amongst the plants in the school garden. The children were very excited to see the slow worm up close! We found out that it is actually a legless lizard and not a worm (or a snake) at all! Did you know, a slow worm can shed its tail and blink? And they love sunbathing too! Amazing!





In science we are currently studying changing materials. We observed ice as it melted into water and then carried out an investigation to 'free' the 'explorer' from the ice in the quickest time. Some groups put their ice in the sun, some put salt on their ice, others decided to break their ice up into smaller pieces and one group placed their ice on a sheet of black paper in the sun. Super scientific ideas!



We also acted out the behaviour of particles as ice (solid) changes to water (liquid) then to steam (gas). The particles in a solid are tightly packed together and vibrate but do not move, in a liquid they are further apart and move around, in a gas the particles move freely. Can you tell what we are?





We used our knowledge about waterproof materials from last term to create these wax-relief paintings. We drew and coloured our pictures in wax crayon and then painted over it with a very thin, watery paint to see the wax 'repel' it. Some of us scrunched our pictures up (which was actually quite satisfying) then opened them up again and flattened them out. This created a crackle effect when the paint was put on. We were really pleased with the results.

