

Wonderful Winter

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

December 2021

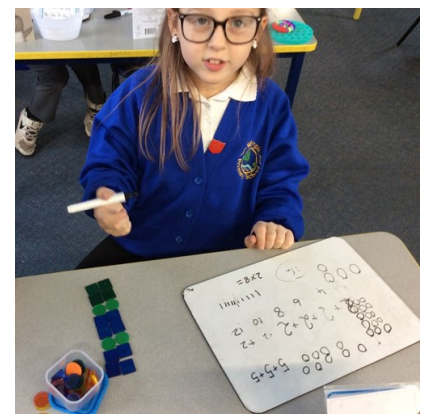
Welcome to the second edition of our curriculum newsletter which shares some of the things the children have been involved in throughout the past half-term.

Oak Class

This half term in Oak class, we have been enjoying Phillip Reeve's book, *Oliver and the Seawigs*. We have learned about the adventures of Oliver Crisp and friends which, culminates with a spectacular seawig competition. To celebrate this special event, we pretended to be Rambling Isles and made our own seawigs.



In maths, we have been learning about multiplication. To help develop our understanding and see how multiplication is commutative, we have been creating lots of arrays using counters.



Oak Class continued:

At the end of this term, we completed our topic on the Romans in Britain. Since September, we have been learning why the Romans wanted to invade Britain and what life was like under Roman rule. As part of this, the children were invited to the Lanista's house for a Roman banquet to learn about their lives and gladiators.

"First, we had breakfast and ate dormouse covered in honey. Then we had lunch. My favourite food was the olives, bread and cheese." Maisie.

"For dinner we had porridge, which we had to eat with our hands, it was hot!" Eleanor.

"The worst part was the dinner because we had no cutlery. My favourite was the lunch because the table was full of food and I got to try new things like pomegranate and persimmon." Matilda.

We are hoping to visit RAMM early in the New Year to enjoy a day of learning about the Romans in Exeter.



To celebrate Christmas, we made snowmen cards using chalk and pastels and welcomed a new member to our class, Billy the Capuchin. We have adopted him from The Monkey Sanctuary in Cornwall and he will be joining us in lessons to help us with our learning.

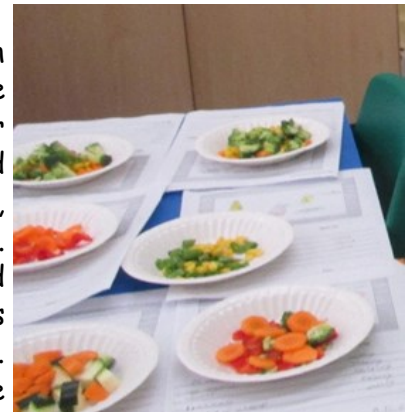


Beech Class

In Beech Class we have been learning about backstays, welts and vamps (that's right - all parts of a shoe). We have researched shoes over time and considered what a working elf needs from a shoe (comfort and protection). Our designs had to be adjusted for the materials and tools available and then we have learnt different types of stitches to help us join our fabric. The results have been really great!



On Friday 10th December the pupils in Beech Class planned, cooked and ate savoury Chinese inspired dishes. Everyone had a base of rice or noodles to start with. Then we all prepared and stir fried our chosen vegetables, as a topping, before choosing a sauce to complete their dish. At the end we were able to taste our food and then evaluate it, saying what went well and things we would do differently if making the dish again. Many of us really enjoyed eating our Chinese food.



Beech Class continued:

Then on Thursday 16th December, the pupils in Beech (and Oak and Willow) Class challenged themselves to power walk, jog or run as many laps of the MUGA as they could (in about 30 minutes) in their chosen festive or sport wear. They listened to Christmas music as they made their way round and round. All of the money raised by this event has been given to the ELF charity to support those with blood cancer or other disorders.



Christmas Fair

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas fair - from donating items, to helping run a stall, it could not have happened without you and the children absolutely loved it!



Willow Class

Merry Christmas from everyone in Willow Class! It's been an incredibly busy term, so thank you to everyone in our school community for your ongoing support.

We were delighted to listen to Zachary talk to us about Hanukkah, and everything associated with this Jewish holiday. He treated us to some gold coins... but we had to work for them by winning a game of Dreidel first! We learned about the different symbols and their meanings, and it led to lots of conversations about sharing and playing a game fairly. Thanks Zach!

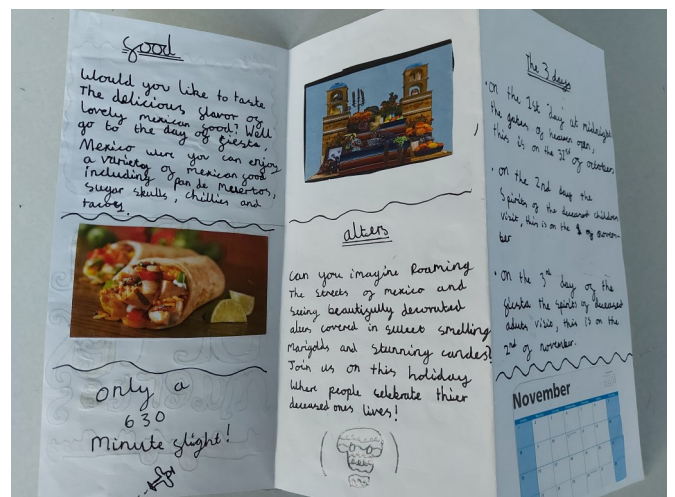
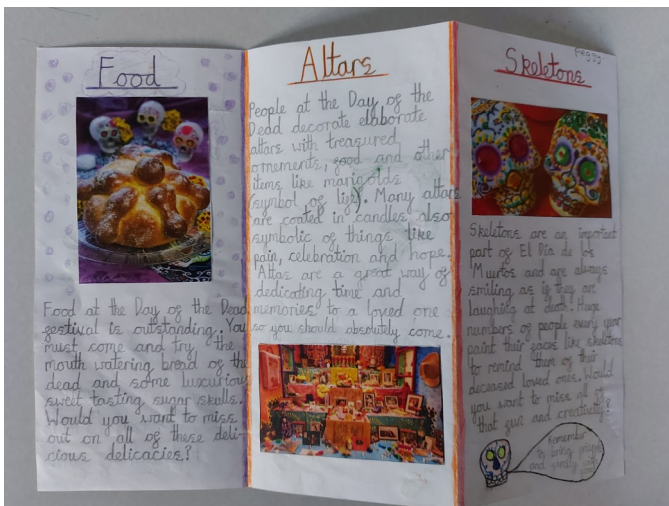


Well done to everyone in Key Stage Two for taking to the MUGA to run and raise money for a superb cause: The Exeter Leukaemia Fund. Here are Molly and Rudy after collecting all of your generous donations.

We've been finishing up our learning about the ancient Mayan civilisation by making our own masks, inspired by architecture and tradition. Don't they look fantastic?



Linked to this, in our literacy we have been studying the day of the dead and created leaflets to persuade a tourist to visit this Mexican tradition. We learned about the features needed to persuade someone to do something... I wonder if the children have been trying these out at home.



Finally, we will be sad to say goodbye to Miss Cartwright, who has been working with us throughout this term. She has done a fantastic job and has made a real impact on the children's learning, while continuing to develop her teaching skills. Thank you for all you have done!

Elm Class

The children in Elm Class have been enjoying taking part in Gardening Club, with the help from some parent helpers. They have made bird feeders using pine-cones, fat and seeds whilst also tending the fruits and vegetables growing in our School garden. We had a new working space built towards the end of the last school year and we have been making good use of it, not only during Gardening Club but also for our science lessons.



Our focus in English last half term was Diwali and the Festival of Light. The children enjoyed making Coconut Barfi, a sweet which is made to share during the Hindu Holiday. They had to follow the instructions and work as a team - when the sweets had cooled they all tried them, most of the children enjoyed the sweet treat but not everyone was convinced! We were very lucky that during this time Mrs Wall was teaching Oak Class about Hinduism and had created a Mendi in Oak Class. The children were invited in to the class to experience the Hindu Tradition of thanking the Gods and Goddesses, it was an amazing sensory experience for all the children.



Elm Class continued:

Our topic this half term was 'People Who Help Us'. The children learnt about the lives of Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale and Jennifer Worth. They thought about what it took to be a good Nurse or Midwife and were lucky enough to have a visit from a real life midwife who was able to do a question and answer session with them.



Christmas Fun - The Christmas crafts were a hit, we made Reindeer Food which involved lots of concentration to make sure the correct amounts of oats and sprinkles were added and enjoyed getting our hands all sticky making the salt dough Christmas Trees. The glitter is still showing up around the classroom now!



The children enjoyed the Christmas Fair, they showed great levels of independence by organising themselves and making sure they spent their money wisely. Most of them enjoyed seeing Father Christmas and having a nibble on a chocolate cake.



Elm Class continued:

In Science, we have been learning all about the changing seasons. The children have become great 'weather watchers'! All enjoyed exploring local environments both in school and at home to identify some signs of Autumn and Winter. The children have enjoyed making their own wind socks, sun catchers and shadow puppets and have used these and other resources to explore and describe the weather.

The children have been using their scientific knowledge to answer 'how' and 'why' questions about the changing seasons.



Ash Class

We created the background of these Great Fire of London paintings by mixing red and yellow. We then cut out the shapes of the buildings to create silhouettes. They look very effective!



In science, we carried out an investigation to find out using soap can help to get rid of germs. We used pepper to act as the germs!

We discovered that the 'germs' stuck to our hands without soap but did not stick when we used soap! Germs are able to stick to our skin because of the oil in it. The soap reduces the oil and the germs can't stick so well!



Ash Class continued:

We had great fun making our snowman Christmas cards!
We used a lever and pivot to make a moving part so that the snowman can tip his hat. We also made Christmas tree cards and Santa decorations!



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