

Marvellous May

The Curriculum Newsletter for Whimple Primary School

Welcome

This is the ninth edition of our monthly curriculum newsletter. Despite being a month of national assessments the children have continued to participate in a wide range of curriculum activities throughout May.

Fun Run with Local Learning Community Schools

A few weeks ago, all of the children from Oak, Beech and Willow Classes headed off to Clyst Vale to take part in the annual Fun Run. Our children competed alongside children from the primary schools at Stoke Canon, Clyst St Mary, Silverton, and Broadclyst.



A huge well done to everyone for taking part - you did Whimple School proud. Although the aim was to encourage participation, certificates were awarded for first, second and third in each category. Well done to Edward, Charlie and Isabella for all finishing first in their respective races - three gold medals out of four!



Dinosaurs in Elm

This term we have been learning about dinosaurs and fossils. You can see us making dens and habitats for dinosaurs, making music for a dinosaur stomp and pretending to be palaeontologists.



Oak Class Science

This term in science, Oak Class have been learning all about the different types of rocks. Last time, we discovered there were three type of rocks and then used food to show their processes. Firstly, we looked at how an igneous rock is formed; we used ice cream and chocolate sauce to show how the sauce (magma) cooled as it hit the freezing Ice cream. Secondly, we looked at a sedimentary rock and used rice cereals (sand) and lots of different pieces of sweets (rocks) to show this process, which happens over millions of years. Finally, we looked at a metamorphic rock. For this we used crackers with marshmallows, smarties and sweets pressed inside to show the layers of rock and the process of merging the rocks together with heat and pressure.



Fantastic Friday

Music and Drama

Year 1 and 2 explored music and drama through stories by Colin West.



A wide range of percussion instruments were identified and played to produce a musical accompaniment to stories. This included conducting in a group and using pictorial notation for sounds.

Cookery

Children in Year 4 worked in groups to design and produce their own soup variety as well as making bread rolls for accompaniment. They also made and ate pizza faces. The soup and rolls will be eaten at their sleepover. (photos next edition)

Fantastic Friday continued: Forest School

Year 6's completed a round robin of tasks during their four sessions of Forest School, including making masks decorated with natural materials, using tools to create a wood cookie man and open fire cookery. Free play and hot chocolate are still very popular activities.



Ash Class Activities

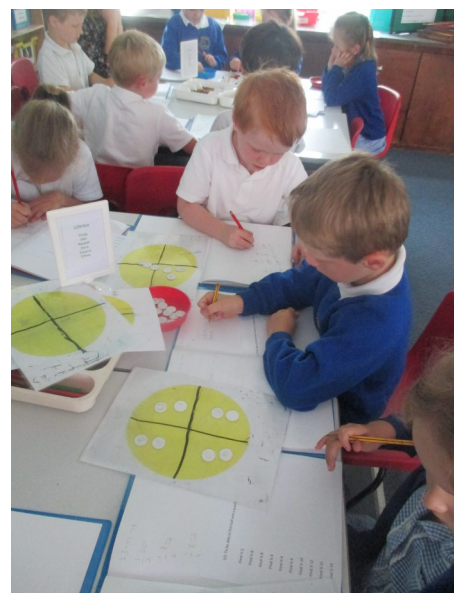
Children have continued to learn about the life of Mary Anning and have done some diary writing.



After making their own fossils children used a branching database to identify different types of fossils using a selection of criteria. They have also used a selection of instruments, including some home-made ones, to produce some seaside sounds and effects.



In maths children have been learning about fractions, particularly halves and quarters of numbers.



May Blossom Dancing

One sunny morning in mid-May, Mrs Palmer kindly came and worked with Beech Class and the Year 5 children from Willow Class. She spent some time teaching us a group dance set to music on the MUGA and another whole class dance around one of the apple trees in the orchard area.



We were all quite nervous to start with but became more confident after we had practised our movements several times. We definitely showed resilience when faced with learning some quite complicated step sequences. We would all like to thank Mrs Palmer for giving up her time and for sharing her knowledge of this dance tradition with us.

Fisheries Presentation In Beech

On Monday 13th May a fisherman called Gavin, representing Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve came in to give a presentation to Beech Class about the dangers to animals and the wider environment of marine litter.

We all learned that it takes up to 20 years for a plastic bag to decompose and around 450 years for a plastic bottle to break down.



Gavin stated that we could all try to re-use or recycle our plastic items and that most beaches in the South West have 'clean-up' days that the public can take part in too.

Everyone gained lots of information and enjoyed finding out ways they can help to keep our oceans and beaches litter free.

Mental and Physical Health Workshops

After their last SAT, Year 6 pupils were involved in ways to look after our mental health'. They spent some time indoors talking about how people sometimes end up feeling when we lead busy and pressured lives. They then thought of things that could help them to feel calmer and better mentally; talking to someone, getting enough sleep and being active.



Aaron from Exeter Chiefs ran a session so children could learn about how team and outdoor activities can make us feel better about ourselves both physically and mentally.

The pupils all listened carefully and participated fully in this sessions with some useful ideas to use in their everyday lives.



Year 5 will have a session later in the term as part of a collection of activities we are providing as life skill sessions for the year 5 and 6 children.

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