

Optimistic October

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School October 2022

Here we are at the end of the first half term of this school year, and what a busy term it has been! This is our first curriculum newsletter of the year which collates the wide variety of curricular activities the children have undertaken.

Annual Apple Picking

The sun shone all Wednesday afternoon and it was very warm for our annual apple pick. All classes, across the afternoon were involved. Despite the very hot summer there is a big crop of apples this year. Some will be kept so some of the children can have a go at apple pressing, the rest will be taken to Courtney's- Cider



Everyone helped each other to pick lots and lots of apples. In the end, we filled many of the large white bags and were really pleased with our efforts. It was lovely to talk to the children about the different kinds of apples and all the pupils enjoyed taking part in this traditional Whimple School event in the autumn sunshine.



Elm Class

Elm Class have had a great start to the Autumn Term. The children have settled well into their new class and have enjoyed exploring their new learning environment and getting to know new friends. Our new outdoor learning area has been very popular and we have enjoyed making the most of this lovely new resource.



In Science our focus has been on 'Animals including humans'. We have been learning about the human body and finding out about our senses. We have carried out investigations to learn more, including exploring how sounds in the playground change and if children with bigger feet need larger gloves! We have also explored different food groups and designed healthy lunchboxes.

In Art we had great fun painting our self portraits and exploring colour mixing. We have been learning about where we live in Geography and using maps.



Elm Class cont.

What a great start to the school year!



Ash Class

In Science the children in Ash Class have been using their senses to classify fruits and vegetables in different ways. Our favourite part was definitely the tasting!



Ash Class cont.

In geography, Ash class have been finding out about the local area. We have looked at Whimple on Google Earth and had great fun trying to locate some of our houses. We have learned about the human and physical features of the area and plotted routes on maps, using compass points to describe the route. We have learned about land use in the area and used a key to mark these on a map. We put some of our geography skills into practice with a field trip and had a lovely walk around the village. We followed a route marked on the map and kept a record of any geographical features that we could see along the way.

After our walk we joined the apple pick at the orchard. We worked very hard and picked a huge amount of apples! It was a very tiring but an enjoyable afternoon!



Oak Class

This term in PE Oak class have been learning about the skills and rules of dodgeball.

We have been particularly enjoying our game cannonball, where we have to get across the playground without getting hit by the ball. The children have done a great job at watching the ball so they know when to stop and duck out of the way.

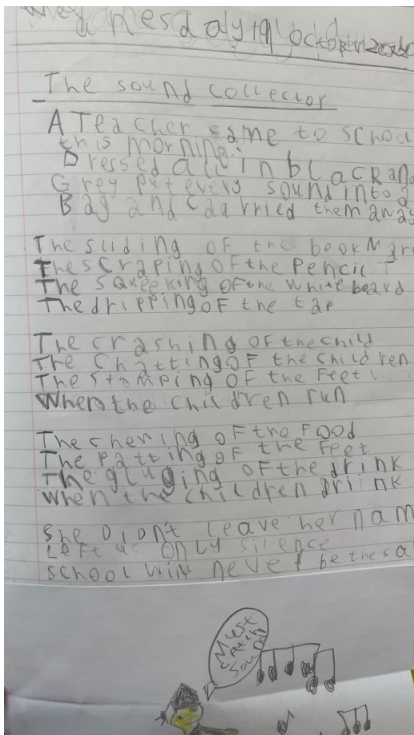


In art, we have been looking at different artists to inspire us when producing collages. Our latest pieces are inspired by Eloise Renouf. Oak class took their time to make different lines to make their pieces unique.





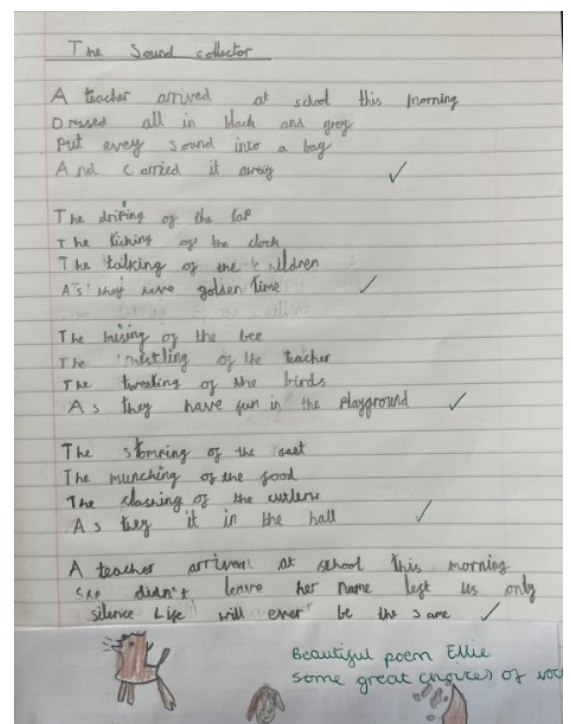
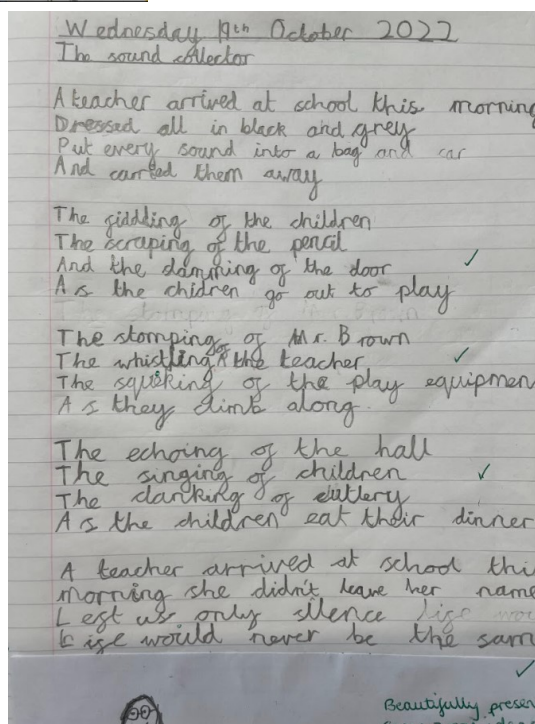
Oak class have also enjoyed making their own moving animal/object through the use of links and levers. Again we were so proud of what we achieved.



Making sure we took the time to design our product ensured they all worked and they were exactly what each pupil had pictured.



Oak class have also worked really hard on their writing this first half term. Miss Dunsford has been blown away by the effort of all the children. We have most recently completed some lovely poems inspired by a poem called 'The Sound Collector' by Roger McGough.



Beech Class

Pupils in Beech Class have benefitted from doing some yoga inspired activities with Mrs Thackeray. They have learned how to be present in the moment, rather than thinking about the past or the future. The pupils have also had the opportunity to explore their sense of sight and hearing. They also focussed on their breathing and talked about things they could do to keep themselves calm when facing a tricky situation.



While learning in History about how a group of Norsemen came and raided a religious building in AD793, the pupils took part in small group drama work where some members were the attacking Norsemen and others were the monks leading a peaceful life of prayer in St. Cuthbert's Priory. Some monks were killed or injured whereas others were taken as slaves. We all performed our scenes to each other and many of the pupils acted their part with confidence.



Beech Class pupils have also participated in two Forest School sessions during this half term as well. The weather was wet and windy during our first outing so we designed and made shelters, using trees, ropes and tarpaulins. When we visited the orchard for the second time, we added extra features to our shelters and created a swing out an old tyre that we found, that we then enjoyed using.

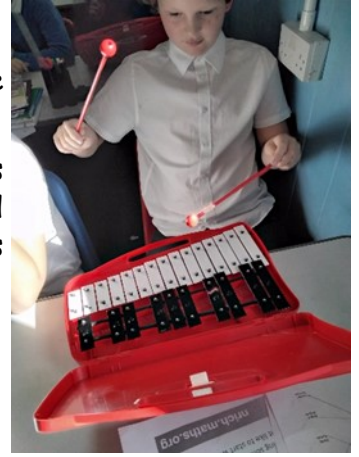
Across the two sessions, we also worked in small groups to make some 'cookie people' and this involved sawing branches into circles and then drilling holes in them, before connecting the sections together with pipe cleaners to create funky characters.



Willow Class

It's been a very exciting start to term in Willow Class and all of the children should be very proud of all they have achieved so far this term.

In **music**, we have been learning about how music can bring communities together, through singing and playing two songs called Ghost Parade, and Joyful Joyful. We have learned about what simple music notation means and how that effects the rhythm of a piece of music.



Our key enquiry question in **history** for this term has been *Why did Britain once rule the largest empire the world has ever seen?* We've looked at different historical sources to find a balanced argument to this question, and have considered how the choices made during that past 200 year have affected us now.

Our **computing** lessons have been really fun too, as we have learned about communication over the internet and how messages can be transmitted between different devices. We have put this to use by creating websites and Google Slides documents by being collaborative and working using the chat function to share our thoughts.



One of our favourite activities links to our **Civic Award**, where we are trying to make a positive contribution to our school community. We have been taking part in shared reading with the children from Elm Class, to support their love of learning and become role models ourselves in the school. This really has been successful and enjoyed by all involved.



The children in Year Six have been braving the elements this week too as they take to the roads, to try and complete their **Bikeability** award.

This teaches the children how to ride safely on the roads, which we think is a key skill for children living in rural towns and villages.

Well done to everyone for taking part!



And finally, Mrs Shilston and Mr Brown have been sharing something with us called Mathdoku in **Maths**. Fancy a challenge? [Have a go here!](#)

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