

Manic March

The Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary

Welcome

This is the seventh edition of our new curriculum newsletter. Find out what the children have been up to through the month of March. It has been a very busy month.

Outside with Elm Class



Celebrating Chinese New Year and building bridges for the Billy Goats Gruff.



World Book Day - absolutely fantastic costumes, a great effort, thank you very much.



Our lovely Mr Men characters—can you name them?

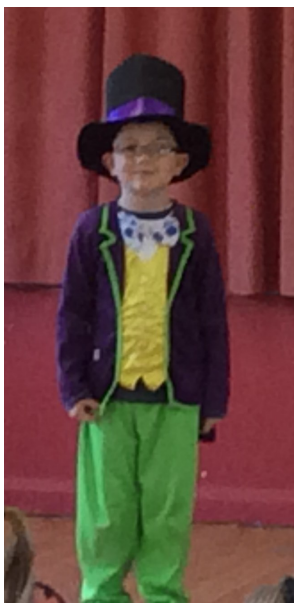


The selection of characters from Harry Potter were magnificent.





Can you guess the Disney characters?





Dick King-Smith characters - aren't they great!

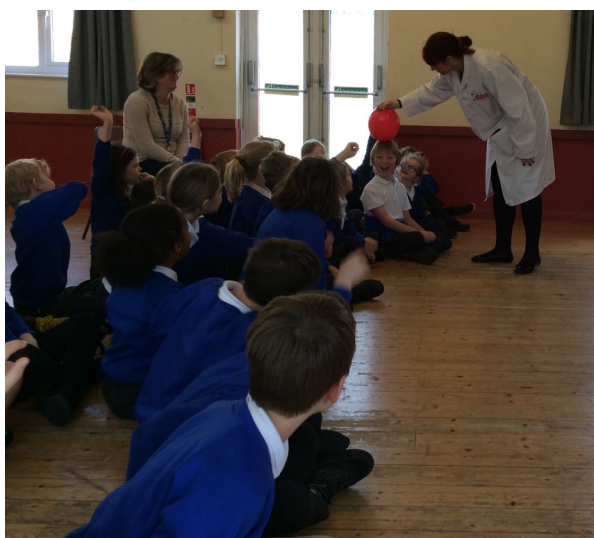
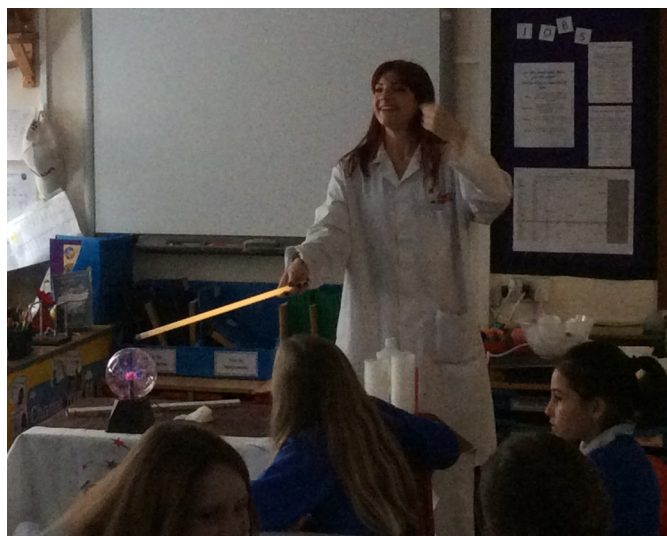


Some more Disney characters including a selection of princesses.



Science week

Science week was kicked off with an exciting assembly with Boffin Becca who amazed the children with some sensational illusions, which seemed like magic but were actually just fantastic uses of science. The children enjoyed the flying fire, elephant toothpaste making, chemical rockets and daring water feats.

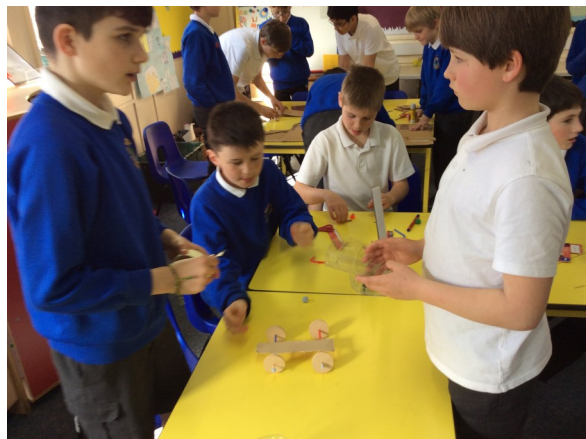


Each class were then able to have a workshop with Boffin Becca in which she discussed how electricity worked and showed the children electrons travelling through our bodies to try to reach the floor. This made some crazy hair from static electricity and created some small shocks to show the electrons movements.

Taking this knowledge further looking at polymers, the children were then able to make some lovely gloopy slime to take home. She also put on a lunchtime display about great gases, demonstrating how vacuums work and the different elements in the air we breathe- both harmless and volatile (setting herself alight all in the name of science).



In addition, teachers led their own activities. In Key Stage 2, the children discovered how our brains can deceive us with some cunning optical illusions. By pushing our processing powers to the limits we made thaumatropes, the weird 'holes in the hand illusion' and reversed images. Harnessing the power of balloon rockets, teams produced their own racing karts. We learnt that sometimes less is more when it comes to decoration.



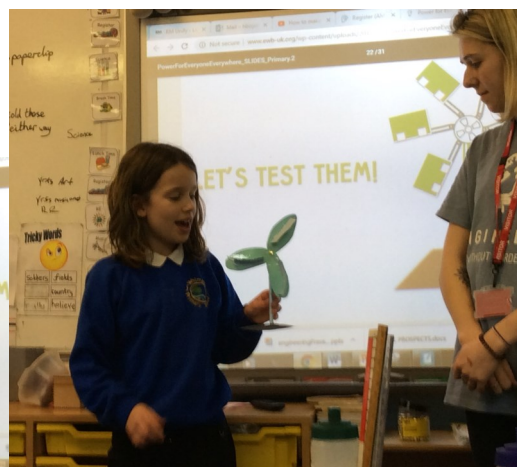
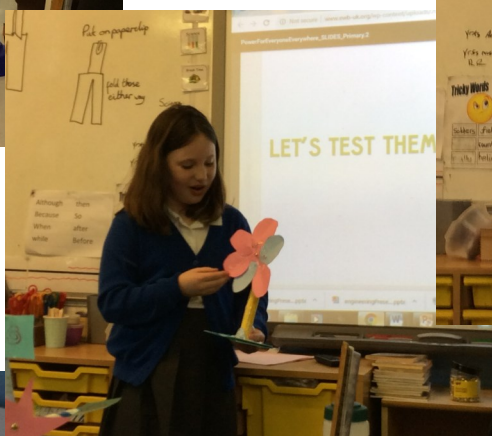
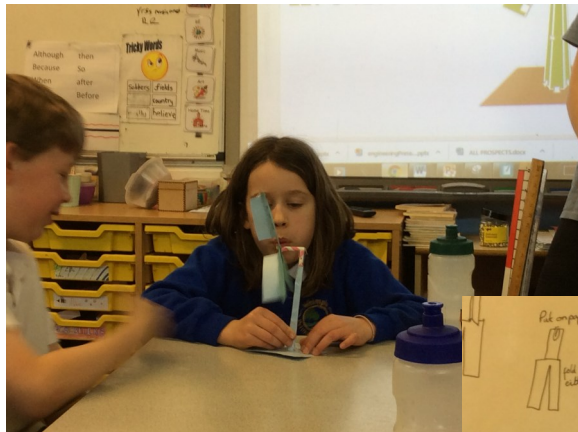
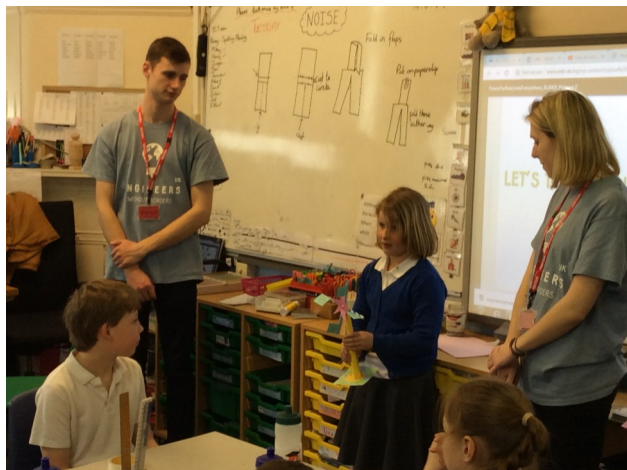
Finally, you can tell a lot from poo apparently! Pupils investigated poo from around the world, considering the different ingredients in it.



Mid-week we had the dentist visit to discuss oral hygiene with Year 3 and 4, and year 5s investigated frozen balls and rates of melting. PCSO Simms discussed his career in the force and the children used a mixture of different solutions to extract DNA from strawberries finding out how the police force can match every ones unique DNA to samples left at crime scenes. Pupils also had the chance to identify their own particular finger print types- be they a tented arch, double loop or whorl!

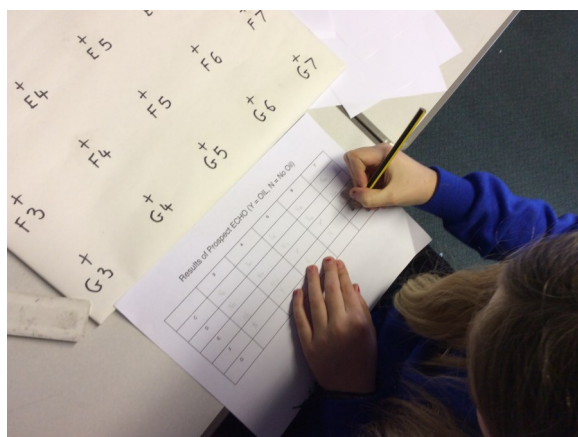


Later on in the week, we were lucky enough to have 3 STEM ambassador activities to try. The children learned how we can make energy using wind turbines and designed and produced their own with a team from Exeter University's Engineering Without Limits group.



Ambassador Sue explained her career in developing fibre optic equipment and mobile phone technology, giving the children a chance to make their own torch and helicopter.

Finally Ambassador Terence, an oil industry engineer, shared with the children how to prospect for oil and in teams they searched the Sahara for the next billion pound drilling location.



After watching the Science Boffin assembly with the rest of the school, the children in Early Years and Key Stage One spent a morning rotating around a variety of activities.

These activities included looking at colour - some marbling and chromatography to see how different colours are made;



sound experiments to explore how sound travels via vibration and also how the pitch of sound can be changed; bubble fun - exploring making bubbles of different shapes and sizes.



In the afternoon they took part in a Science Boffin workshop involving investigating static electricity and making slime.



Music Assembly

Yet again, our musicians and choir produced a fabulous performance in front of everyone.

We wish those who are taking music exams the best of luck.

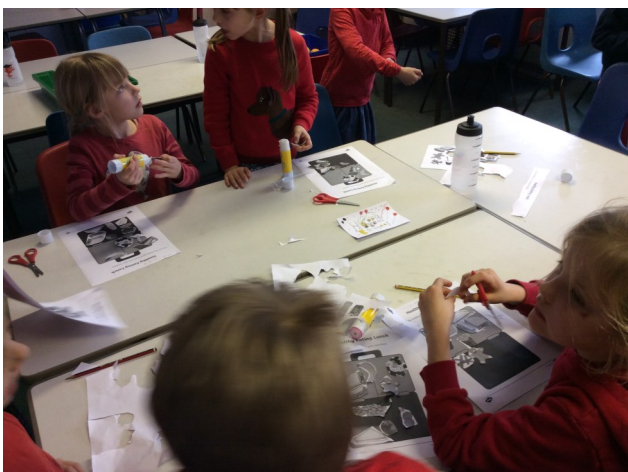
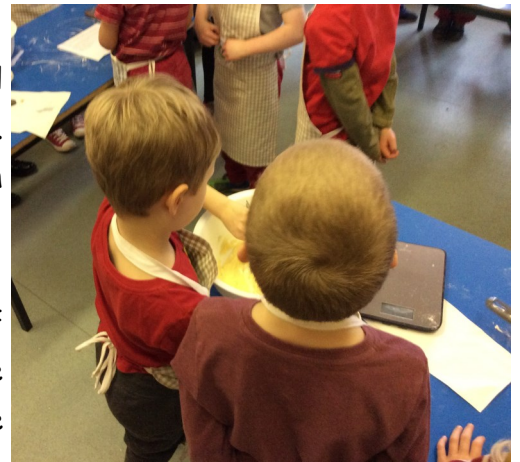


Fantastic Friday Activities

Cookery - Year 1 and 2

Over the past four weeks the children have been learning all about where food comes from, food groups and eating healthily. They have been taught how to use knives for cutting safely with the correct grips, either the 'bridge' or the 'claw'.

Children have read, measured and weighed a variety of ingredients and learned some simple cooking methods like creaming and rubbing in. The end products have included apple scone round, banana loaf and scones.



Crafting - Weaving Skills with Year 4

The children spent four weeks learning the skill of weaving. Starting with using a piece of card and using wool to make a warp the children then wove various wools in and out warp before finally removing and tying the finished piece. Some then made these into purses or bookmarks.



Relax Kids - Year 6

Discussions with children have included identifying different emotions, what might bring those emotions on and how to deal with them.

Year 6 have been learning various massaging strokes, breathing exercises and ways to calm their brains and still their thoughts. The hope is that they will then use and apply these techniques to help them when required.



Drama with Year 6

Over the past few months as part of Friday afternoons and an after school club, the Year 6 children have put together a production of 'Snow White'. I do not want to spoil the surprise so photographs will be in our April newsletter. (But here's two as a sneak preview!)



Physical Education

Beech class have been perfecting their balance skills on a line and applying them to modern line dancing. They have choreographed their own moves to "Timber"- we were really impressed by the level of energy they all put into the dance.



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