

Amazing Autumn

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School October 2021

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

Willow Class

It's been another busy term in Willow Class! We've been working exceptionally hard to master some tricky concepts in maths, and have created some super writing pieces based on the fabulous novel: Kensuke's Kingdom. We've also welcomed Miss Cartwright into our class this term; she is in the final stages of her teacher training and she has been helping us to develop our learning across the curriculum.



To supplement our learning, children in Year 6 also began their journey to achieve the Civic Award - a programme designed to help children understand their place in the world, and how they can make a meaningful difference to others. All of Year 6 also completed the Bikeability programme, following a week of sessions to boost their confidence and skills when cycling on the roads around our village.



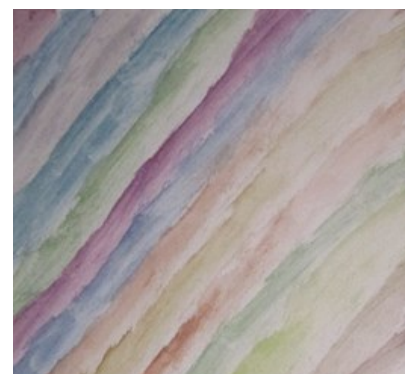
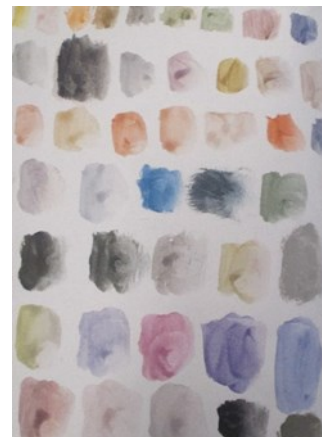
Ahead of our learning about Earth and Space in the spring term, all of Year 5 and Year 6 visited the Space Dome at Cranbrook Education Campus. It was a fantastic morning that really helped bring what can be a challenging subject to life.



Beech Class

In art lessons during this first few weeks of term, in Beech Class, we have been learning to mix shades of colours when painting. We chose a colour theme and then mixed some light, mid and dark shades of that colour. Finally, we used a black or dark pen to make marks, lines and shapes to make a second interesting layer. We hope that you enjoy looking at our artwork.

By Reuben



In some of our other art lessons, we combined our colour mixing knowledge and painting skills when designing and making moving dragons. We joined the parts of our dragons together using a paper concertina and decorated the parts in variety of ways. We have also been learning about how dragons are important in Chinese culture and have been writing about different kinds of them in our English work. Here are just some of our amazing dragons.





In science, children have been experimenting with reversible and irreversible changes.

They investigated a range of 'in the kitchen' items to see whether they were soluble or insoluble, this included things like sugar, salt, vitamin C tablets and cocoa, to name a few.



Another great experiment, that fascinated the children, was the reaction of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to produce a gas (carbon dioxide), to inflate the gloves.

Ash Class

The children have been learning about colour mixing. They used the three primary colours - red, yellow and blue to mix and create the three secondary colours - green, orange and purple. They painted the colours into a colour wheel.



In geography we learned about the four countries of the United Kingdom and their capital cities. We discovered the important landmarks of London. We then sketched a landmark from a photo and used water colour paints and our colour mixing knowledge to paint them.



Year 1 have been learning the pairs of numbers that make 10. They wrote them as number sentences and ordered them to check that hadn't missed any!



The children have really enjoyed their gardening sessions so far this term. They were very pleased to be able to dig up some potatoes and collect bean seeds.



Fantastic Friday

Year 1 and 2 children in Ash (and Elm) participated in four weeks of 'Fantastic Friday'. This included two weeks of Forest School and two weeks of craft and cookery. Alongside making wooden pendants at Forest School, the children baked 'fairy cakes' and got to know what the words 'cream' and 'fold' mean in a cooking context and sewed a felt animal.



Elm Class

Squiggle and Wiggle

The children have been enjoying Squiggle and Wiggle. They have been practising forming different shapes with scarves and then using the pens and crayons to practise the shapes on paper. Squiggle and Wiggle is a fun way to build up fine motor skills. The wiggle comes in with the music, which helps us form the shapes. The children are all doing well with their pencil grip and enjoying listening to new songs.



Insects!

The children have been bug hunters this half term, without even meaning to. They found an interesting looking caterpillar and we didn't want to touch it because it was very spiky. Everybody enjoyed looking at it though and we found out that it would become a type of moth.



Then the following week we came across a butterfly in our classroom. We didn't want it to come to any harm inside so we all sat in a circle in the playground and watched it fly away.



The year 1 children in Elm Class enjoyed going to Forest School at the beginning of the Autumn Term. They used hand saws to cut up branches to make beads, lit the fire for hot chocolate, made dens, enjoyed exploring the orchard, and climbing the trees!



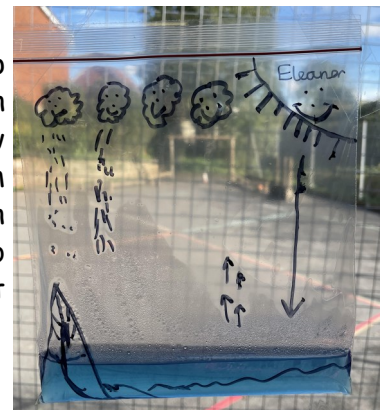
Oak Class

During the past half term, Oak class have enjoyed learning the traditional story, The King of the Birds. As part of this, we visited the MUGA to take pictures of our favourite trees to write our own version, The King of the Trees. We got to know them using our senses and amazing adjectives. The children also enjoyed hugging their tree, generating lots of happiness and a sense of calm. For the final part of our project, we wrote our own versions of the story, including the Queen of the Rabbits, the King of the Dragons and the King of the Lizards.



In art, we have been focusing on the life and artwork of Vincent Van Gogh. As part of this, we learnt to paint like him using cornflour and painted our own flowers in a vase. The results have been fantastic and the children have really used their observational skills to capture the life of the plant.

In science, we have started looking at the water cycle. To help develop our understanding, we learnt the water cycle song and created our own water cycle in a bag. Using pens and coloured water, the children drew the water cycle on a bag and then attached them to the classroom window. We then watched the sun evaporate the water like it does in nature. But in our bag, it had nowhere to go, so it ended up sticking to the sides of the bag, turning back into a liquid as condensation. That condensed water then slid back into the pool of water below as "rain".



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