

Delightful December

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School December 2022

Here we are at the end of the autumn term of this school year. It never ceases to amaze me how much we manage to fit in to a short space of time. This is our second curriculum newsletter of the year which collates the wide variety of curricular and enrichment activities the children have undertaken.

On Wednesday 7th December after eating school Christmas Dinner together in the hall, the pupils in Beech Class enjoyed taking part in a music workshop, along with the pupils in Oak and Willow classes, that were led by a group of visiting musicians from the Benedetti Foundation.

Our three visitors encouraged us to keep a steady pulse or beat going, using a variety of body percussion techniques, while one of them demonstrated different rhythms on a box drum. Then they explained what a vibraphone (instrument) is and also demonstrated the sounds (notes) it could make. Next, they taught us to keep a more complicated percussion pattern going while a beautiful tune on the Vibraphone was played above it. It was great to work with such talented musicians and to have the opportunity to listen to and make such interesting music.



A similar workshop was also put on for the children in Elm and Ash Class.



Elm Class

What a busy term! Along with all our curricular learning we have also been pressing apples and Year 1 have been on a trip to the Heritage Centre.



In science this term, we have been learning about the weather and seasons



and had great fun making our own wind socks.



In Maths, we have been learning about time and money. We learnt the days of the week and months of the



year songs and used the small clocks to make o'clock times.

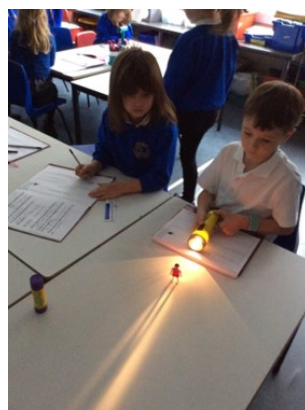
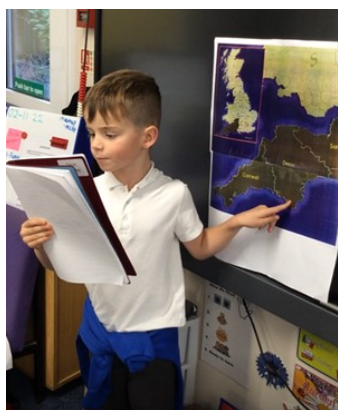


A Little Bird Told Me - A Nativity Story



Ash Class

In Science, Ash Class have been weather watching. We observed the weather and had fun reporting back to the class using the new vocabulary we had learnt. Then we explored sun and shadows using torches, and measured rain and wind with our own hand made rain gauges and wind socks.



In Art, we have been taking inspiration from the autumn season by sorting and using different coloured and textured paper to create beautiful autumn leaf collages.



We learnt about the life and work of American collage artist Lois Ehlert. We took inspiration from her book 'Leaf Man' and used natural materials to create our own art during Forest School.



Ash Class

This half term we have been studying the history of the local area. In class we learned about why poppies are important in November and linked this to Whimble during the First World War. We learned about how the lives of local people were affected by the war and the significance of the war memorial in the churchyard. The children visited the Heritage Centre and were told the story of the Elliot family. William, who was a chauffeur, became a soldier in the war and Mary, who was a maid, became a volunteer nurse. They were very excited to be able to see and hold some medals from this time. They also learned about Whiteways Cider Factory and its founder, Mr Henry Whiteway. They were amazed to hear that some of their houses now stand where the factory was!



In PE we have been developing and improving our gymnastic skills. We have been holding a variety of balances with control and stability and incorporating a range of travelling movements and rolls to create a sequence of movements. We enjoyed performing our skills across the mats and apparatus.



Oak Class

Firstly, I would like to say how thankful I am to all the children. They have been absolutely fantastic over these last few weeks and they have kept me going with their constant smiles and offering to help me at all times. I appreciate them all and I am so excited to have two more terms with them all.



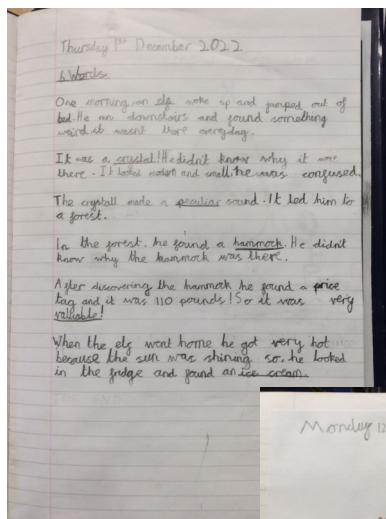
In science, we have been learning about how sound travels. We have completed lots of investigations to help us understand sound levels. We all loved playing with the instruments to distinguish how their sounds were formed and we also loved making our own telephones at the end of the unit.

The discussions about the particles vibrating and how we need to keep the string nice and tight to allow the sound to travel better so it is louder, were fantastic.



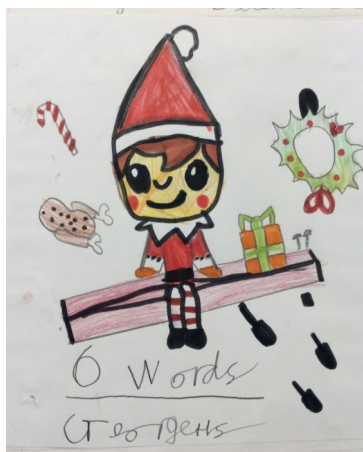
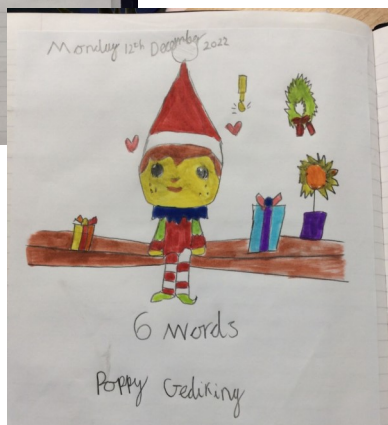
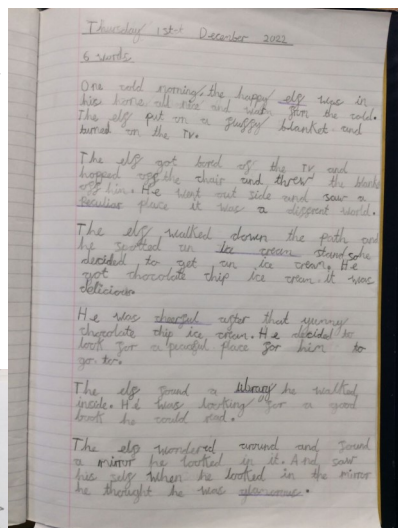
In history, we have been learning about the Iron Age. As we reached the end of our learning journey we decided to have our own Iron Age ceremony. To be able to do this, each of us took on the role of a child in the Iron Age. We decided on our names and drew what our place of settlement would be on our Iron Age hill forts. The last step was choosing what we were going to offer to the gods. The children loved taking part in the ceremony and it was so lovely to see all our learning come together and to hear the conversations the children were having about who they were.





We also wanted to share some of the fabulous end pieces of writing this term and some of the front covers we made which were inspired by the front cover of the book we have been focussing on, 13 Words by Lemony Snicket.

Have a holly jolly Christmas from Oak class and Miss Dunsford :)



Beech Class

Last week, the pupils in Beech Class worked really hard to learn their Christmas song called 'The Gift' and then they went on to perform it really well in the Key Stage 2 Carol Service on Thursday 8th December in Whimple Church, along with a 'Our Christmas' acrostic poem and several traditional carols. Thanks to all you for coming to support and being such an enthusiastic audience. We hope you all have a lovely festive season.



Pupils in Beech Class spent time just after half term creating some lovely Christmas decorations from natural materials that they collected on a walk around the village. Many of these are now on display on a Christmas tree in the chapel at nearby Killerton House.



As part of learning about aspects of Christianity, in RE lessons, the pupils in Beech Class spent time learning about and making Christingles that share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

Each part of a Christingle has a special meaning that helps to tell the Christian story:

The orange represents the world

The red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ
The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations

The lit candle represents Jesus' light in the world and the hope he brings to people living in darkness



During this half term, pupils have been busy learning about the digestive system. They enjoyed working in pairs to create tabards that showed the name and function of each of the parts. Then the whole system could be clearly explained. The pupils worked hard and we hope you enjoy looking at them!





Willow Class

Wow what a term! It has been jam-packed full of learning and the children have worked incredibly hard to during the first term of this year.



In **science**, we have been learning about light and how it moves in straight lines. We know that a big part of working scientifically is proving our thoughts, so both of these images show the children hard at work to show that opaque objects do not allow light to pass through and cause shadows.



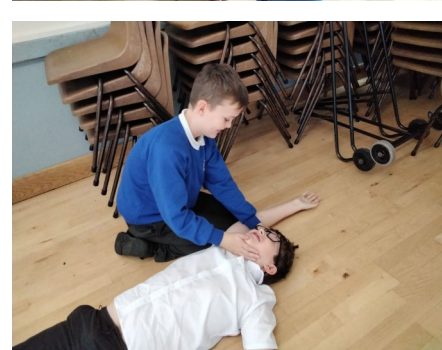
Mrs Wall kindly put us in touch with the Jewish Museum of London, who shared the story of Hanukah as part of our **RE** learning this term.



Earlier in the spring term last year, we took part in the annual Wassail to try and ensure a strong harvest in the local orchards. We then followed this through in the autumn by collecting apples and here we are making apple juice from the crop! It has been great to see the whole process through from start to finish and understand the importance of this to the **history** of our village.

As part of our **Civic Award** and **PSHE** studies, we had a visitor come to join us and deliver a session on first aid and how to respond to support someone in an emergency. We learned about how to put someone in the recovery position, and how to phone for the emergency services.

During this day, we also learned some new games to use when working as **Play Ambassadors** in both the Key Stage One and Key Stage Two playgrounds.



Back in November, some of our **Whole Class Reading** texts focused on Armistice Day and how poppies are sold to raise money to support those following conflicts around the world. In **Art**, we talked about silhouette and how it can be impactful for a topic such as this.



And finally, all of the Year Six children read so well in our Christmas Carol Service and the whole class sang Sparkle and Shine with confidence!



Merry Christmas from Mr Brown and all in Willow Class, and we look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year.

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