

Memorable May

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School May 2025

Welcome to the fifth edition of our curriculum newsletter in which we share some of the things the children have been involved in throughout the first half of the summer term. Despite it being a short half-term which has included two bank holidays - a total of 23 teaching days - the children have been busy learning lots of new things across all curriculum areas.

After a number of walks, which started back just after Christmas with all the Year 5 and 6 children; eight Year 6 children spent Saturday 3rd May walking 16 miles around Dulverton on Exmoor. The route took them around 6 hours and was an amazing achievement considering how hot the day was.



Art Display

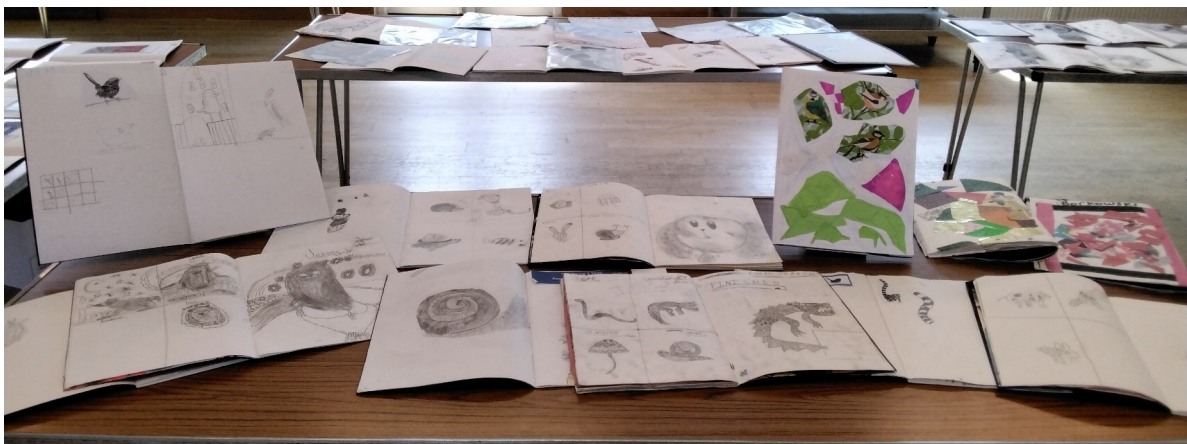
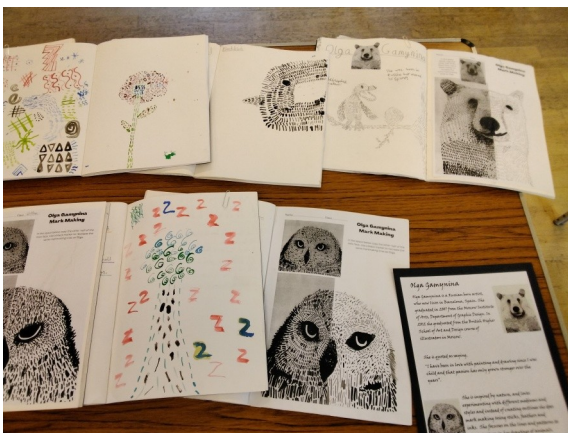
On Friday 25th April, a whole range of artwork from collage, drawing, painting and sculpture were displayed in the hall for all to see. The art displayed was only a selection of the art undertaken this school year. Here we can see some of what Elm and Ash Class have produced.





Art Display cont.

More pieces of art from Beech and Willow Classes.



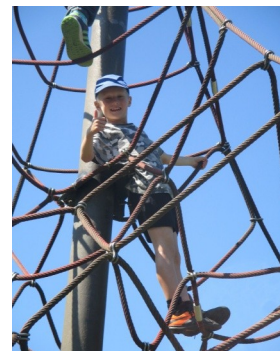
Art Display cont.

Some pieces from Oak and Beech Class.



Year 3 and 4 Residential to Okehampton

When the pupils first arrived at the Okehampton Youth Hostel, they walked down to a nearby park and had some playtime and ate their packed lunch. It was a beautiful sunny day and they all enjoyed themselves.



Then the year 3 pupils took part in some team challenges and exciting activities during the rest of Wednesday afternoon and challenged themselves to learn and apply new skills when tackling an obstacle course.



On Wednesday afternoon all the year 4 pupils stayed positive, overcame a few nerves and learned lots about climbing - some climbed to the top of the high ropes course! They all challenged themselves, before walking back to the youth hostel building in time for tea. Then everyone went on to enjoy a beetle drive, board games & roasting marshmallows on a campfire during the evening.



The children enjoyed their meal, yummy pizza and sticky toffee pudding. They also tucked into their breakfast and packed lunch.



While the year 3s were climbing, having a go at archery and carrying out a scavenger hunt, the year 4s were busy weaselling on Dartmoor. They were great at working individually, in pairs and in larger teams to complete different challenges - they even broke an Okehampton YHA World Record! They all listened well to the instructions and gave all the activities their very best effort.





Finally, everybody had lunch, picked up their luggage and then travelled by train, from Okehampton to Exeter and then to Whimble! We were really lucky with the weather and could make the most of being outside on the edge of the moor. What a fun and action packed two days on residential!



Willow Class

Willow Class have been incredibly busy this half term, and have shown great resilience and resourcefulness when completing their SATs last week.

These will be published online soon for you to go and have a look at... it's worth seeing what is expected of our 10 and 11 year old children and we could not be more proud of their efforts.

We celebrated in style on Friday afternoon by heading to the MUGA for a play in the sunshine, and to toast some marshmallows and drink hot chocolate.



In our **science** lessons, we have finished our learning about microbes and how they react in different conditions. We managed to blow up a balloon by making yeast interact with different solutions – it worked really well!



We've been busy designing and refining games using variables in our **computing** lessons, have developed our football skills in **PE** and have started to sing a variety of songs which we hope to perform with a choir from other schools in **music**.

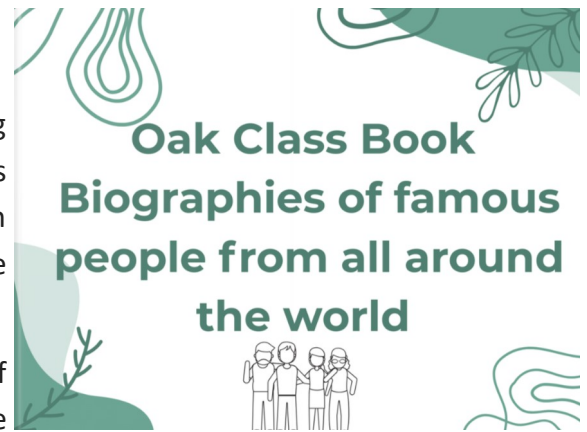
Happy half term from all in Willow Class!

Oak Class

After working through a selection of tasks, including undertaking some research. The children wrote biographies about famous people based on what we had learned through reading "Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World" by Kate Pankhurst.

Take a look at what we have discovered about a variety of people using the link below - we are sure there will be some facts that you did not know, enjoy!

<https://read.bookcreator.com/etq8C9wPuvUvw1mLI5SW0rruzGL2/gM0lwAGKT8OSDRNouiidRQ>



In Art, the children have been using clay to create a plant pot based on the intricate designs of Choi Jeung Hwa. We learned about using a slip to attach smaller pieces of clay more securely and we used a range of tools to experiment with carving shapes and patterns.



In Science, we have continued our unit learning about light and how we see objects. We did some experiments to test the size of shadows and the reflectiveness of different objects. We have now started our new unit learning about plants.

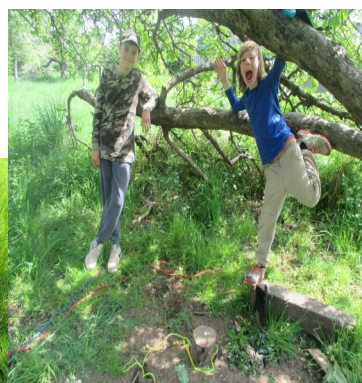


Beech Class

This half term the pupils in Beech Class have been busy studying artwork and collages created by German artist, Kurt Schwitters. He ended up leaving Germany and coming to live in the Lake District, and he is most famous for his collages of everyday paper items which he spent time collecting in his local area. We are in the process of finding interesting pieces of paper and everyday flat objects so that we can go on to create collages that reflect daily life in 2025.



On Friday 2nd May, Beech Class had an afternoon of Forest School activities. The pupils worked in pairs or small groups to collect things from nature, such as pebbles, sticks, feathers and leaves to create mini National Parks. Some of our parks had trails, lakes and rivers whereas others had farmland, forests and hills. We took our time when planning and making them, before having a tour to see how they had turned out.



We've been improving our striking and fielding skills, focusing on the game of rounders. They've developed their knowledge of the batter, bowler, back stop and fielder roles to apply tactics to these positions. The children showed good team player skills, encouraging each other and focusing on the enjoyment of playing the game.

Over the half term, the children have been investigating what living things we have in our immediate surroundings and further afield. We've looked at different ways to identify these by their characteristics and sort them using dichotomous keys and put our results in a table.

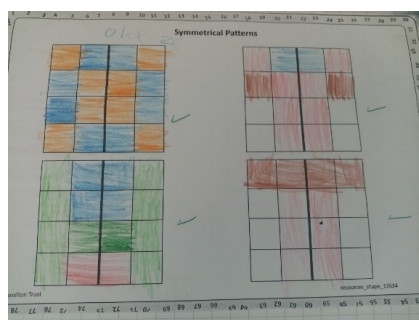


Ash Class

We are very keen scientists in Ash Class and this half term we have been learning about animal life cycles. It's been fascinating to observe our caterpillar's transformation over the past few weeks. The children have also been introduced to some new scientific vocabulary including, offspring, invertebrates, chrysalis and metamorphosis.



In Maths, we have been learning about shapes and symmetry. Year 1 children used paint and paper folding to create their own symmetrical butterflies whilst Y2 explored symmetrical patterns with mirrors.



In Art, we are studying printing. We looked at the work of Cath Kidston and realised that some of us have examples of her work in our homes! She uses floral, polka dot and vintage inspired prints in her designs. They can be found on many home wares such as cushion and bed covers, wallpaper, tables cloths, crockery and containers, bags and beauty products. To develop our printing skills, we have had a go at printing colourful butterflies using sponges and printing summer themed pictures using bubble wrap. We also used stampers and leaf prints to create repeating patterns.



Elm Class

In Art, we have been learning about the technique 'sculpture'. We started by experimenting with plasticene and playdough using different modelling dough skills.



Last Friday the children took part in a litter pick around the school. The children also had fun on the equipment in the bottom playground and looking at books in the library.



In our PSHE Jigsaw lessons we have been focusing on 'relationships'. The children drew around each other and wrote some of the qualities they would look for in a good friend. We also discussed what to do if we fall out with our friends and what we can say or do to make up with them.



Elm cont.

We have been learning about animals including humans in our Science topic 'Wild and wonderful creatures'. We have sorted a variety of animals by classifying them into the groups mammals, amphibians, invertebrates (insects), reptiles, fish and birds.

We have also learnt about different animal diets and how to identify whether an animal is a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore.



As part of this work, the Year 1 children made a rockpool habitat and learned about the different creatures that call it home.

The reception children have enjoyed playing in the rock pool and identifying the different sea creatures.

They have also been making sea creatures and have produced some lovely turtles.



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