# Sensational Spring

## Curriculum Newsletter for Whimple Primary School March 2022

Welcome to the third edition of our curriculum newsletter which shares some of the things the children have been involved in throughout the spring term. Considering it has been yet another challenging term with both staff and children absent, it's absolutely amazing what curricular activities have taken place and this newsletter represents only a proportion of them!

#### World Book Day

Another fabulous selection of outfits - children dressed as characters from books by our chosen authors.



Beech Class



Oak Class

### Willow Class



Elm Class



Ash Class





For World Book Day, pupils in Beech Class dressed up as characters from their favourite books. Some pupils were from Simon Mugford's football superstars series, others were cats from the book called Varjak Paw, some were characters from the Harry Potter stories and a a few were other well-loved book characters. Each pupil also received a book token which they could then swap for a new

book.











For World Book day children costumes to celebrate their assembly and book quiz during



enthusiastically created eye-catching favourite authors, taking part in an the day. Well done everyone.





#### Oak Class

This term in Oak class we started off with a fantastic trip to RAMM in Exeter for a day all about the Romans. We learnt about what the Romans got up to in Devon including making our own mosaics, having a go at roman writing, trying on Roman clothes, and learning about food, drink and what life was like.













In Literacy we spent the first half of term being inspired by Marc Martin, the author of A River. From his work, we wrote poems about a fictional journey looking out of our window. When we finished our poems, we performed them to everyone, taking inspiration from the performance skills of poet, Michael Rosen.

For the second half of term, we have been reading Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett. The children have enjoyed learning about Sunny and his mongoose family he visits around the world. Now we are going to write our own versions of Sunny's journey.







#### Oak Class continued

In Geography we have been learning about the earthquakes in New Zealand and how our Earth is formed. We have been very lucky to be sent personalised videos from those who were in the famous 2011 earthquake, to help us understand what happened in more depth. Also as part of this, we have learnt about tectonic plates and the different types of plate boundaries. Using Oreo's, we replicated each plate boundary and found out how they cause earthquakes and volcanoes and create mountains.

It was a very popular and tasty activity!







In science we have been learning about light and sound. As part of investigating light we experimented with torches to find if a material was transparent, translucent or opaque. During our sound topic we made cup telephones to find out how sound travels along a piece of string and how our own voices can travel.







In art we have been inspired by Hokusai, the Japanese painter and printer. To learn more about him we have had a go at drawing famous Japanese figures like samurai, geishas and sumo wrestlers. Also, we took our sketching skills outside to be inspired by the nature around school, just like Hokusai did in and around Tokyo.





#### Elm Class

Wellbeing/Mental Health Week 2022

The children in Elm enjoyed a spa day where they were able to use their ticket to come and visit the spa to relax and unwind. They were able to have a foot massage and try some healthy foods. Many of them tried some foods for the first time, such as watermelon, corncakes and oatcakes. They all said their favourite thing was the foot massage.







Yoga

We were lucky enough to have sometime with a local Yoga teacher who taught us some story yoga, we were all very good at balancing!







Houses and Homes

Year 1 designed and created homes using recycled material

during the first half of the Spring Term. They enjoyed creating their projects taking great care to use suitable materials for the different parts. They also had to evaluate their homes, giving them a mark out of 10.









#### Elm Class continued Fantastic Fridays

The children in Elm Class have been enjoying cooking and games on a Friday afternoon for the last couple of weeks. We have made Cheesy Feet and Pitta Bread Pizza, choosing our own toppings, such as peppers, sweetcorn and tomatoes. As you can see they all enjoyed making and trying their creations!

















#### PSHE - Healthy Me!

This half term during our PSHE sessions we have been thinking about being healthy. In the first session, we talked about different types of exercise and why exercise was so important. The children enjoyed working in groups to act out a sport for the other children to guess. We had a range of different ideas about sports from boxing and swimming to golf. The second session was about Sleep Hygiene. We watched a clip from 'Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang!', where the children are sung to sleep and we discussed our own sleep routines. The children asked to have a lullaby so we lay on the floor and listened to lullabies.









#### Elm Class continued Gardening Club

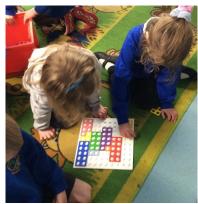
Now the weather is improving the children in Elm have been able to get outside into the School Garden to start weeding and preparing the garden for planting. They have also been chitting potatoes and planting sunflower seeds, which they are hoping will grow to be ten foot tall! Thank you to our helpers for making this possible! The garden is full of spring flowers and is a real pleasure to use.







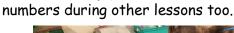






#### Number Sense

Year 1 have been working on the Number Sense programme during the last term. This programme supports the children with understanding numbers and develops number fluency. Our focus has been subitising (don't count, say the amount!) numbers to 5, recognising 5 and a bit and knowing how to make and break the numbers 3,4,5 and 10. The children have really enjoyed the sessions and we have noticed a huge difference in their confidence with





#### Ash Class



In maths, we have been learning about fractions and measures. We had to fold shapes to find halves, quarters and three quarters.















Year 1 used non-standard measurements to find the length and height of objects, to weigh objects and to find out the capacity of containers of all shapes and sizes!

Year 2 had to use metres and centimetres, grams and kilograms and millilitres and litres. We all had great fun using the water to measure capacity despite getting a little wet!

The first half of term was spent investigating the properties and uses of a range of materials. We tested different objects and materials to find out which were waterproof or absorbent.



#### Ash Class continued

We found out which materials were best for fixing a broken umbrella and which were best for mopping up spills. We made our own waterproof fabric and card using wax crayons and had great fun testing them with water!













This half term we are looking at plants. We have used hand lenses to observe a range of plants and flowers growing in the school garden. We are learning about the importance of seeds and the different parts of the plant and the special jobs that each part has. The children have planted sunflower seeds with the adults who come in to do gardening and are looking forward to watching their plants grow!









#### Ash Class continued

In art this term, we have focussed on drawing and textiles. We learned that there are different types of pencils and that some can be hard and others soft. We tried a range of shading techniques to create dark and light lines. We then used these skills to design an outfit for the Queen's jubilee celebrations. We created some very fancy designs! We have looked at different types of weaving around the world and used this as an inspiration for our own paper weaving. It was quite tricky to begin with but we soon got the hang of the weaving pattern. They look really effective and are now ready for decoration! The paintings were created using watercolour crayons. We drew a scene through a window showing a particular season and then coloured in with the crayons. We painted water on to turn the crayon into paint!

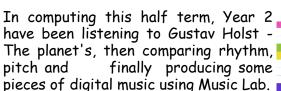




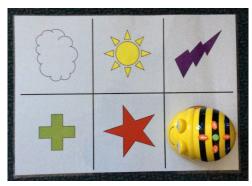












Year 1 have been learning about programming and using BeeBots and BlueBots to predict and plan routes, then testing them out to see if they are right.

#### Beech Class

Beech pupils have been researching the orbit and rotation pattern of different planets and have acted out the solar system's movement in the hall. Later in the term the children have been exploring the effect of forces. Here Mr Warland helped them launch their parachutes while considering what shape will slow the fall of a ping pong ball.





On Tuesday 8th March, Beech Class also went on a trip to visit St. Nicholas Priory in Exeter. We went on the train and Rebecca, from Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership, joined us for our outward journey to talk to us about the benefits of travelling by train and about how to keep safe when waiting on a platform.







Once we got to the priory, we split into groups and visited some of the rooms in this historic place. We found out that poor Tudors ate mainly pottage, with vegetables in it, whereas rich folk ate pottage with meat and just a few vegetables. We also saw some lovely Tudor panelling in the parlour where the rich people dined, and where we ate our lunch. We also learned that wealthy Tudor people slept in short canopied beds, had a long drop toilet and wrote with a quill. We also had a chance to handle some Tudor artefacts and play a few interesting Tudor games. We learned lots of information about this part of history while also having fun.







#### Beech Class continued

During this spring term, pupils in Beech Class have happily taken part in yoga, Forest School and cookery for their Fantastic Friday sessions. The pupils liked having a wider variety of adults teaching them and enjoyed the chance to learn in a range of environments. Highlights for us all included, shelter building in pairs or groups, using the creaming method to create yummy cupcakes and thinking about our movements and breathing during story yoga.



Thanks to all the adults from school and the local community for their help with making these exciting sessions possible.









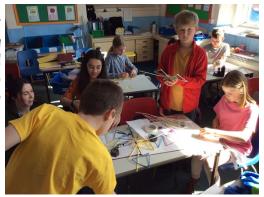




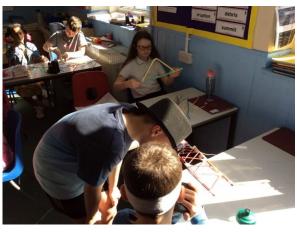
#### Willow Class

We've had a really busy term in Willow Class since Christmas (which already feels like such a long time ago!) and have enjoyed our learning throughout the spring term.

In Design and Technology, we have been learning about structures and how 'triangulation' creates an incredibly strong shape. We saw how paper art straws, folded and joined effectively are actually very durable! Our challenge was to build a bridge to withstand significant weight and the winning teams were able to support 7kg!











Back in January, we were blessed with sunshine and braved the cold weather to take part in our school's Wassail this year. We learned about how important this event was to the local community over the past centuries, and loved singing the traditional songs.

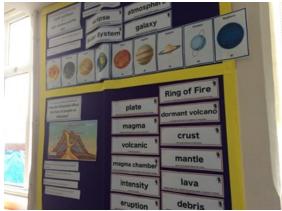


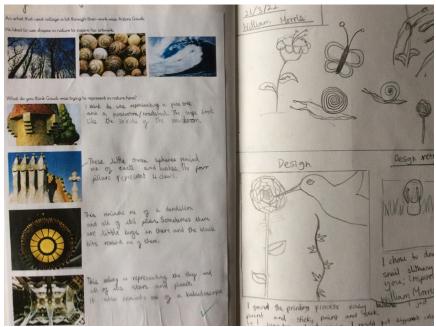


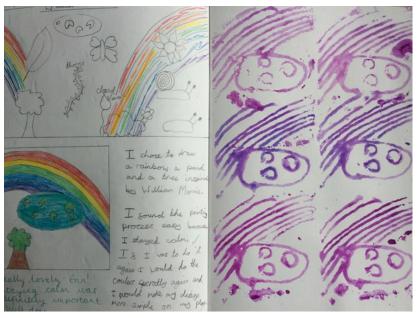
#### Willow Class continued:

In our art sessions, we have been learning how both collage and print can be used to create different mediums of work. We explored colour and tone, and created a whole class volcano too!









During Fantastic Friday, we have really enjoyed taking part in yoga, computing, and particularly our cooking sessions. We have made a selection of edible treats, including savoury scones and chocolate chip cupcakes.



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