

# Optimistic October

## Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School October 2019

Welcome to the second edition of our monthly newsletter which shares some of the things the children have been involved in throughout the month of October.

Some of the pieces are written by the children - enjoy!

### Year 6 Quilting Project

Every child involved had to design a square linked to one of the four seasons. The finished quilting squares were put on display at Killerton as part of their annual Apple Weekend.



Whimble was one of seven schools involved in the project. Don't they look fantastic. We will put them on display in school once they have been returned for you all to see close up.



### Danes Wood Acorn Collecting - Year 3

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, the year 3s had a lovely afternoon foraging in Danes wood. The children were searching for the best oak trees in order to find some acorns. We will be planting these acorns in one of the school beds and the children will look after them for the next two years. Hopefully, these acorns will turn into saplings and will be ready for planting in a local community area. This is part of a project with Woodland Trust and East Devon District Council.



Throughout the afternoon the children also found lots of different leaves and used these to identify certain trees. The year 3s were fantastic at seeking out all the different insects around the forest and we were lucky enough to have two guides with us, who could answer all the questions we had.

A big thank you to Jon and Simon who helped us find the best acorns to plant and being a wealth of knowledge for the children.

### English

I really enjoy English; I find it easy and fun. In English we write stories, type stories and share stories. Normally, we plan our stories before we write them.

Sometimes we look at and write poems, so I've written one for you:

One day I went to play,  
but the sky was grey,  
so I went into a shed,  
and found a bed,  
while I was asleep,  
I didn't peep,  
whilst counting some sheep.

### History

In history we have learnt about the Romans and how the Roman Empire invaded Britain. We built papier-mâché Roman roads and we drew a Roman soldier and a Celtic soldier.

### Year 4

We are going to be doing a play where Emperor Claudius is trying to take over Britain and how he achieves his goal.

Last summer I went to Rome and learnt about the coliseum. It was very hot.

**Poem for history:**

Big fights, little fights,  
and glory,  
no pizzas no chips,  
or ships,  
armour, shield, spears  
and swords,  
Emperors are the best,  
not like the rest.

By Sutherland (Year 4)



## Diwali Workshops

During the half term, year 3 and 4 having been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali (meaning rows of light). This has included the story of Rama and Sita, where good defeated evil, creating Rangoli patterns to welcome the Goddess Lakshmi into their homes, making and painting Diva lamps and visiting our very own Mandir.



To finish the children had the opportunity to take part in a dance/movement workshop with a talented West End dancer. In groups, individually and as a whole class they choreographed sections of the Rama and Sita story before bringing it all together to form one whole dance. They were amazing!



## Visit to the Mandir at Diwali

As soon as you walked in the smell hit you of the diva lamps, the incense and smoke. We started to wash our hands and feet. Once you had washed yourself you could line up to ring a bell before entering the amazing main hall. We could go in and join the other people praying to the gods and goddesses. After fifteen minutes of praying to the gods and goddesses you could go and kneel next to the priest by the table full of candles. You kneeled because it was rude to have your feet facing towards the gods and goddesses.

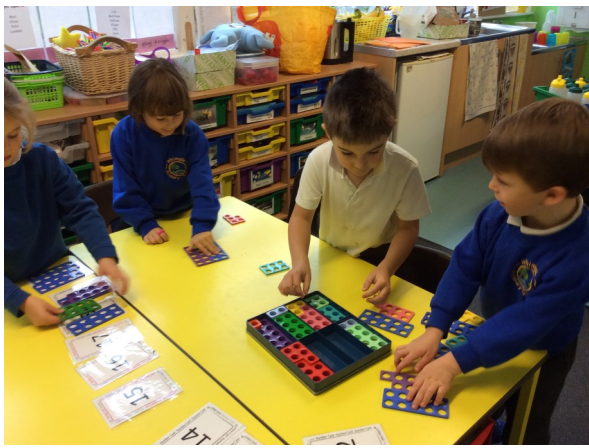
We role-played the ceremony that happens in the Mandir called Puja. In this ceremony the priest tips food and water over the gods and goddesses. They also sing and cleanse smoke over them. Later on the people line up to have Tilak from the priest put on their fore head.

We found it really interesting learning about what it would be like to visit a Mandir and be a Hindu!

By Peggy, Chelsea and Toby







## Autumn activities in Elm:

Through the month of October activities have included the annual apple pick and apple pressing, looking at pumpkins and making pumpkin soup, looking at leaves and much, much more!





Throughout the day on Thursday 17th October many children in school helped to press some apples in a traditional way with Mr Palmer. They then enjoyed drinking the fresh apple juice. The following day they all participated in the annual apple pick in our orchard. Thank you to all those who came along to help.



## Bike Ability



Bike Ability is where children get the chance to learn how to ride safely on roads. In Whimble Primary School, it is the Year 6's who get trained. Richard and Dave taught us in groups, the week before half term (14th - 18th October). We started off in the MUGA, where we checked our bikes were suitable for the course and then we covered the basics.

Everyone passed Level 1 and most people continued onto Level 2. Over the week we covered turning in and out of junctions, using roundabouts correctly, signalling and recognising signs. Once we completed the day's work, we would practise our skills. Everyone enjoyed the experience and hope to do Level 3 sometime in the future.

By Alabama and Ava (Year 6)

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