

Jaunty January

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

January 2020

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

Space Dome

Key Stage 2 had a visit from the space dome science lab this month for an interactive show on light and space. The children amazed us with their knowledge and questions. Great fun for everyone.



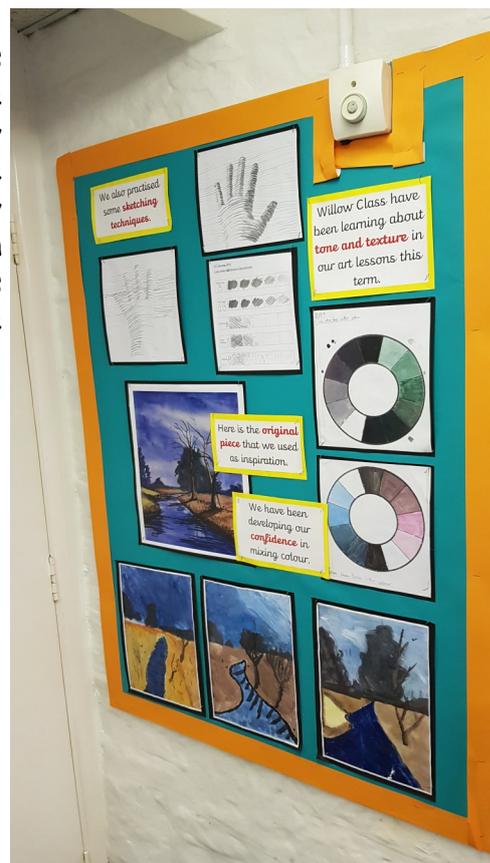
Computing Experience for Year 6 Girls

On 14th January 2020, Whimple's Year 6 girls went to Science Park for a computer course. There were three groups of only girls - no boys - from different schools as people are now trying to introduce more girls into computer science. They were shown several everyday things that women had created, although we all thought they were man made. They spent the afternoon coding in Minecraft Education Edition to help prevent a wildfire (in Minecraft) and played on Paint 3d to create a device to solve an area of the environment/climate change. Some of these were shown to the group using a special part of Paint 3D that showed the invention on the floor. Most girls said that they now want to become computer scientists after seeing how much fun it is.

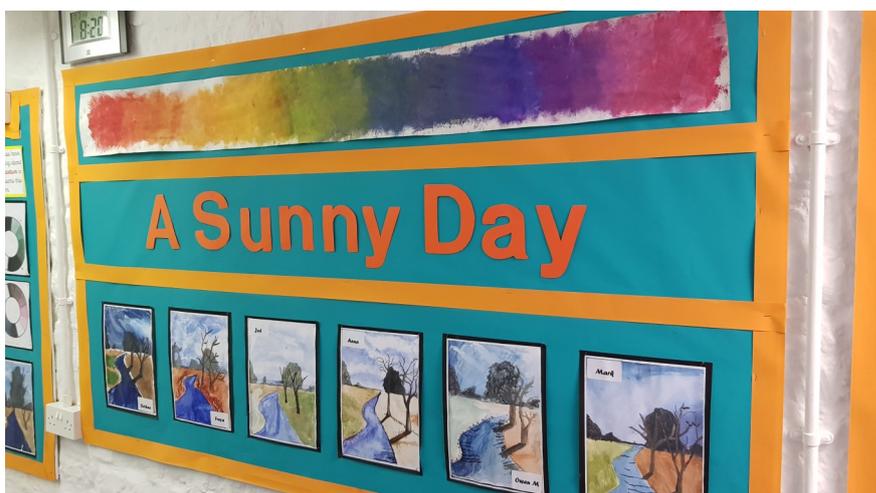
By Alabama

Willow Art

Willow Class have been busy refining our use of watercolour this term. We started by learning how to mix colour and provide tone and definition within this, before experimenting more thoroughly on real life objects and then we then used a painting to inspire the pieces you can see here. This was chosen as it linked nicely with our rivers topic, which we are currently studying in geography. It took a long time to master the techniques required, but we were resilient and made sure that we were confident before starting. Don't they look great!



Come and take a look for yourself, they are on the walls outside of Willow Class.



Elm Class

This term our topic is Materials and the children have been on the look out for different materials around us, they have sorted materials and described their properties.



We have also used different materials to build houses for the 3 Little Pigs and the Three Bears.



Ash Class

Children in Ash Class have been learning all about Chinese New Year. They have been learning a lot of facts and information, like how each year is named after an animal and why and how Chinese people celebrate this festival.



Activities included making masks, Chinese lanterns, learning how to use chopsticks and then actually getting to try some noodles with the chopsticks! They also produced a Chinese dance. All of this is helping the children to write a non-fiction report to bring all they have learned together.



Music and Religious Education

What fantastic questions the children asked Marc (Whimple assistant priest) when he visited year 3 and 4 in their RE lessons. After learning about how Jesus recruited his disciples and thinking about how they felt about giving up their lives to follow Jesus, they then quizzed Marc about what it was like to continue the work of the apostles.

What are the best and worst parts of your job?

Who is God? Where is God?

How do you become a vicar?

Do you like other religions?

Do Christians believe in dinosaurs?

Do you get nervous when you do your speeches in church?

In music they have been using metal glockenspiels and hand chimes to compose music inspired by an animal found in Britain. They have practised and performed to each other.



Wassail

On Thursday, the 9th of January, the pupils of KS2 went up to the hall to learn more about wassailing and we learnt lots of things. In the olden days, people in Whimble completely relied on the land and the annual crop of apples, they tried to ensure a successful harvest by doing the Wassail which includes a song, noise, two wassail queens and an enthusiastic audience.



When the history of Wassail had been explained Jim Causley, with his red accordion, and Mrs Palmer, with her silver tin whistle, led us down to the orchard to practise wassailing.

Then we picked an old-looking apple tree and sang the wassailing song to it. Next, the two wassail queens read their message. After that, some baked apples and burnt toast were thrown at the tree - just in case the wassail had not wakened the trees.

Lastly, all of the audience made as much noise as possible before singing the jolly wassail song one more time. Finally, tired but happy, everyone walked back to Whimble School with the wassail music in the air.

By Dulcie, Sofia and Marley

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