

# Wonderful Winter

## Curriculum Newsletter

### for Whimble Primary School December 2023

Welcome to our second curriculum newsletter for this academic year. This half term is always filled with a variety of Christmas events alongside other curricular activities. It is always great to put together the half-termly curriculum newsletter as it makes us all appreciate what a wide and varied diet the children have and what we manage to fit in, the Christmas events are in an additional newsletter.

#### NSPCC

Every class has participated in the NSPCC assemblies and Year 5 and 6 have also completed a workshop where they were asked to think about their rights to speak out and stay safe. They explored places, people and things that made them feel happy and safe. The workshop concluded with advice on what to do if they were worried about something and that they could contact Childline too.

#### Apple Pressing

After picking our apples at the Orchard before half-term, we were then able to press some to produce our own apple juice.

Mr Palmer kindly brought his apple press in so three classes could take part. Everyone got to taste some though!





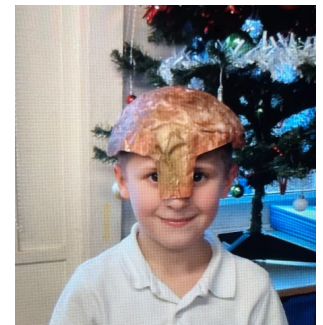
## Oak Class

### Roman Helmets

We have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the Romans this term. We decided to use our DT topic of turning something from 2D to 3D, to make Roman helmets.

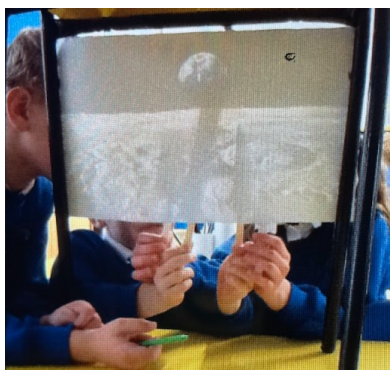
After designing the helmet, we used paper-mache on a balloon, to create the base of our helmet. We used some white paper to cover the newspaper to make it easier to paint. Then we decided on some exciting colours to bring our helmets to life.

We were all surprised how well they have turned out and it was super easy to trim them down to make them look even better.



### Stop- Start Animation

In our computing lessons, we explored stop-start animation to learn more about how this form of creation is still used today, in programmes such as Postman Pat and Wallace and Gromit. We created our own using the iPads and linked all the photos together to create a short animation. The animations consisted of: a goal being scored, a running race, a space launch, an under the sea quarrel, a superhero save and soldiers fighting. We had to be careful, slow and patient when creating our pieces.



### Christmas in Oak

In Oak, we have been very excitable this December as we have been joined by 'Mischievous Morris' who has thrown toilet paper around the classroom, tried to hand out extra team tokens, threw the spelling test books everywhere, broke the internet and has been popping up around the classroom, to watch us learn and behave. We have also enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree and making some beautiful cards and snowflakes.

Merry Christmas from Oak!





## Willow Class

We've had a fantastic first term in Willow Class and have really embraced our learning so far this year.

As children in Year Five and Six, we understand that it is important to be role models to the younger children in the school. We have enjoyed our **shared reading** and computing with the children in Elm Class and our relationships with our buddies have continued to grow.



In **computing** this half term, we have been mastering our 3D modelling skills using TinkerCad. As part of our **design technology** project, we have been thinking about suitable packaging for our soft toys that we have made for our buddies.

We have continued to think about our **Civic Award**, and have been accepting responsibility for different jobs within school. The Eco Reps have been thinking how to make our school as environmentally friendly as possible, our play ambassadors have been busy promoting positive play in Key Stage One, and here we are selling poppies after school during the week leading up to remembrance.



In **art**, Mrs Vanstone has been helping us explore the life of Warren Pohatu and we have created our own pieces, inspired by his work. Don't these look fantastic?



Merry Christmas from all in Willow Class!



## Beech Class

It has been a busy half term in Beech Class and the pupils have been working hard across all subjects of the curriculum. We would like to praise them all for staying positive and developing more independence during this time.

In Art, the pupils have been studying an abstract painter, Yvonne Coomber, who lives in Devon. They were intrigued to find out that she mixes unique colours for each painting and uses varied ways of applying the paint when creating a landscapes. Pupils were keen to learn more about her daily life and inspirations - travelling across the world. Then they experimented with mixing autumnal colours, using watercolour paints, and seeing how lighter and darker shades could be achieved. Pupils also tried painting with different sized brushes as well to see which effects they liked the best. Finally, they painted some bold, colourful and abstract autumn landscapes.



Earlier this term, on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, one of the Lyme Bay Fisheries members came to talk to the pupils in Beech Class. Gavin was a newly retired fisherman and he was very knowledgeable about lots of marine creatures and about the importance of sustainable fishing to keep stocks of species at healthy levels.





He showed some interesting slides and fascinating film clips of life on the ocean floor. Later in his workshop, he encouraged the pupils to participate in different activities to check whether certain sizes of fish, crustaceans and shellfish should be put back into the sea or taken to market to be sold.



The pupils in Beech Class really enjoyed donating to Children in Need and taking part in a circuit of different physical activities in the hall in groups. They challenged themselves to keep going on each activity even if they became hot, tired and thirsty which was great to see. Well done to all.



In Design and Technology this term, Beech Class have designed, made and evaluated Elf shoe. They needed to use their cutting and sewing skills to create their Elf shoe. Pupils showed creativity, resilience and were resourceful when making their shoe and we think that they have all done a great job.



## Ash Class

Ash Class have really enjoyed learning about the life and work of children's poet, Michael Rosen in Literacy. Some children have been finding examples of his work in our library and even brought in examples from home to share with the class. After looking for patterns and rhymes in lots of his poems, the children then had a go at writing their own rhyming poems about different emotions.



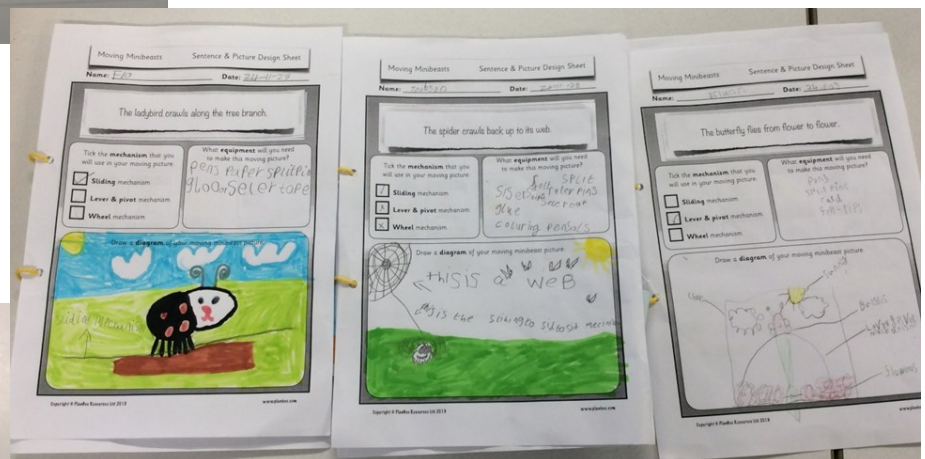
I am busy  
 In my car driving to the bar ✓  
 I am in the frost and I am lost ✓  
 I am sleeping and peeping ✓  
 I am on the train watching the rain ✓

I am excited  
 Lots of snow freezing my coat ✓  
 Bonfire night. A beautiful sight ✓  
 Presents under the Christmas tree smiling with glee ✓  
 Going to the park. Taking the dogs for a walk in the dark ✓  
 Playing hide and seek. Don't peek! ✓

I am excited 9.12.23  
 I am jumping up and down I am going sound and sound ✓  
 I am diving and around I am sailing to the ground ✓  
 I am leaping round the Christmas tree ✓  
 I am doing back flips round the birthday tree ✓  
 I am diving round the class room ✓  
 I am hitting the bath room ✓

I am energetic  
 I am energetic. Really energetic. Energetic, energetic, energetic. Leap all about. And call out. ✓  
 Run all around. Jump on the ground. ✓  
 Cartwheel inside. Do a big stride. ✓  
 Climb a tree. Find a bee ✓

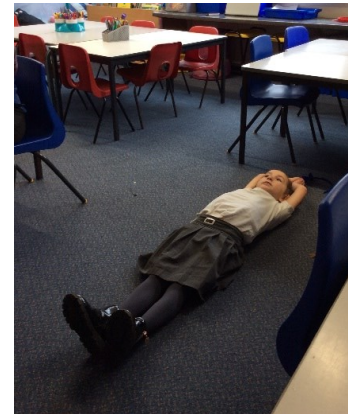
~~I am~~ I am unhappy  
 I'll take some juice then by a goose ✓  
 A cup of tea then go to the bed. ✓  
 A cup of milk then see my dog ✓  
 Then go to bed and grab my ted ✓



In Design and Technology, we have been learning how to create moving pictures. After we had practised making sliding, lever and wheel mechanisms, we all chose a different design criteria and made moving pictures for a book about minibeasts.



Ash Class listened extremely well to Julia from the Devon and Somerset Fire Service when she came to talk to them about fire safety at home. They were able to answer lots of questions about how to keep themselves safe and enjoyed demonstrating the Stop, Drop and Roll.



To round off our Great Fire of London topic, we created these collages in Art. We used tissue paper for the fiery backgrounds and added black strips to the white houses to make them look like the Tudor style houses of the time. They looked very effective when put together for the classroom display.



In Geography, we have been learning about the four countries of the United Kingdom and their capital cities. This sorting activity helped us to explore some of the characteristics of each country. We found out about special traditions, important landmarks, national emblems, saints and flags.





## Elm Class

What a busy term! We have been lucky to have lots of visitors this term for our 'People Who Help Us' topic. We learnt about the jobs of farmers, doctors and physiotherapists.



We enjoyed a circuits session on Children in Need Day run by some of Beech class. The children did really well at the one minute exercises!



In Science, we have been learning about the seasons. The children enjoyed using the Autumn objects they had collected to make some pictures and patterns. They worked collaboratively in their team groups and were proud of their creations.







We have also been exploring the weather. The Reception children have enjoyed using windmills and windsocks to find out if it is a windy day. The Year 1 children have made their own windsocks and spinners to measure the direction and strength of the wind. We have also been investigating shadows and finding out how shadows are formed. We made our own stick.



### Year 5 Sleepover

The children arrived and set up their beds for the night. They then walked over to the orchard.



Hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows were shared around a campfire before heading back to the hall for some activities and a film. A good time was had by all and everyone got some sleep!



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