

Jaunty July

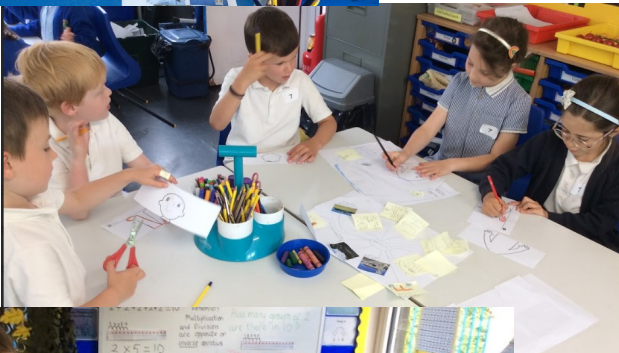
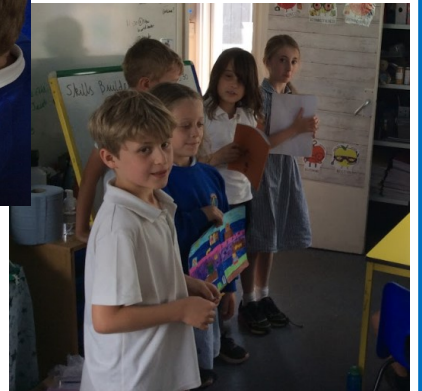
Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School July 2024

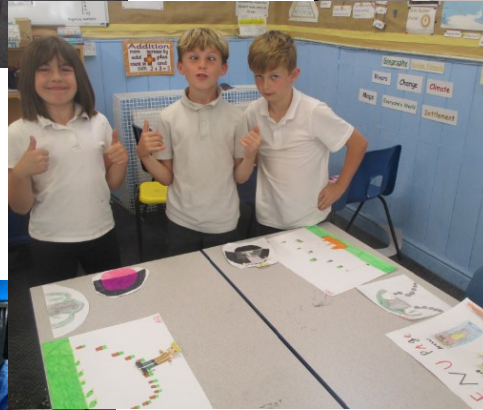
Welcome to our last curriculum newsletter for this academic year. This issue includes an overview of learning covered in each class as well as Sports Day and our Skills Builder Challenge Day - Level Up! It has been a very busy half-term, and both children and staff have worked very hard to cover a whole range of curricular activities whilst also finding the time to include lots of extras.





Skills Builder
Challenge Day
- Level Up!





Willow Class



What a busy term in Willow Class! The Year Six children did brilliantly on their **residential** experience to Pixies Holt and we were so proud of the way they approached each new challenge.



We've also taken part in a competitive **cricket** tournament, continued to work with our buddies (who's too cool to get dressed up!) and had some fabulous pieces of **homework** in too.



For our **Design Technology** this term we have been learning about frame structures and worked hard together to make trebuchets. We then thought about how to develop our designs and used our **skills builder** learning to get creative with our improvements.

We've also been busy playing rounders in **PE**, completed our **Civic Award** assessments and have finished our textile work in **Art**. A busy half term indeed!

Finally, just to say a huge well done to all of our Year Sixes for everything they have achieved this year, and we wish them all well in their new schools.



Beech Class



On Tuesday 2nd July the pupils in Beech Class, along with the year 5 pupils from Willow Class, travelled by train to Exeter Central Station and then went to the RAMM to take part in a variety of World War II workshops in small groups.

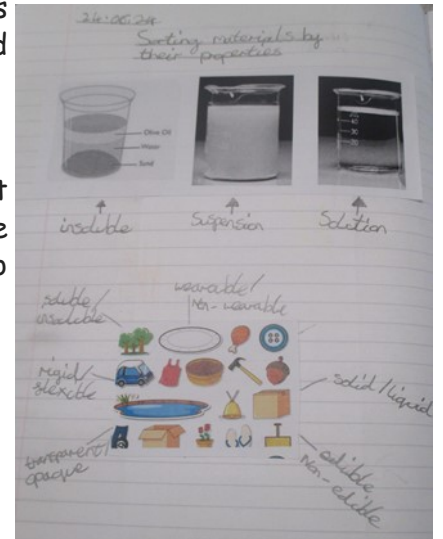
During their visit, the pupils learned lots about rationing and the importance of growing food (digging for victory). They tried on different helmets and some clothing worn during the war years. They learned how and when Anderson and Morrison air raid shelters were used. Also, they considered how bombing raids affected people's daily life and also thought about what it would have been like to be an evacuee.

It was lovely to see pupils engaging well with all the activities. They listened carefully, readily answered questions, made insightful comments and gained further knowledge about life in Britain during WW II. We designed some 'Dig For Victory' gardens too!



During this term, the children have been investigating the properties of a variety of materials in some of their Science lessons and thinking about why certain materials are used for specific purposes.

Then, more recently, the pupils have been investigating different ways of separating mixtures and discussing which changes are irreversible, such as when you burn the toast or add sugar to a cup of tea.



In some of our music lessons during this half term, we have been practising playing notes on the ocarinas, using our music books to guide us, and then spent some time performing individually or in pairs. We thought it would be a good idea to space ourselves out in the bottom playground so that we could hear ourselves and concentrate fully on our own playing. It was great that in the end many of us were able to play a range of tunes with a lot more confidence.



Oak Class

It's the end of a very busy term in Oak! We have been learning about a wide range of subjects and applying all the skills we have been learning across the year.

A favourite part of this half term was making our vegetable curries in DT! We tasted some existing products and decided which ingredients we preferred and the level of spice we liked. We then measured, chopped, mixed and cooked our curries... and sampled them (the best bit)!

We've continued to develop our writing using a range of features and styles in English this term. Recently, we have watched "Pigeon: Impossible" and written our own (very funny) recounts based on the story we saw!

This term in PE, we have been learning how to play rounders. We have developed our skills in throwing and fielding effectively as a team. We have all been successful eventually in hitting the ball with a proper rounders bat! Developing our tactics as a team has been key to improving our games as well as recognising each other's strengths and needs.



In Science, we have been learning about human and animal skeletons. We have learned about the function of five important bones (or groups of bones) including the spine, pelvis and femur. We will finish the term with a visit from a radiologist whose expertise we are really looking forward to learning from in more depth!

Our Geography topic this term has been looking at the development of megacities and what life is like for people who live in them. This has been a fascinating topic and we have learned a lot about different experiences and lifestyles as well as the physical development of these enormous and busy cities.

In Computing, we have been learning how to program movement and animation. Using Scratch, we have been reprogramming a sprite using easy and memorable commands and debugging programs when we identified errors. Following our Skills Builder "Level Up" day, we decided to make some platform and maze games for real using Purple Mash and we have had a lot of fun developing increasingly difficult levels to challenge each other!

In Art, we have been working on a sewing project based on the work of Rosie-Lee Tompkins. Quilting, or "put togethers" as she



called them, began as just a hobby after her grandmother taught her how to quilt. Her quilts were not made to sell. Using dazzling colours and geometric shapes, they were made as wall hangings, rather than the traditional quilts used on beds. Fabric was very important to her family, so every piece was used. They looked great when they were all "put together"!



We also had a fantastic visit to Paignton Zoo. We saw lots of different animals and looked for some that were a bit shy!



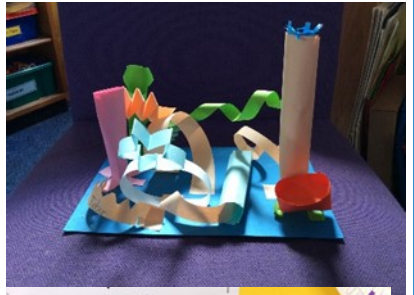
Ash Class

Ash Class had a fantastic time at Seaton Wetlands Nature Reserve, despite the constant drizzle! We had various challenges to complete throughout the day such as following nature trails, mini-beast hunting and pond-dipping. Due to the damp conditions, we were able to find lots of snails, worms, beetles and even a centipede or two! We were amazed by all the different creatures living in the pond and managed to collect a huge variety of specimens to observe more closely in the water trays. We caught dragonfly nymphs, great diving beetles, water boatmen, some tiny newts and even a stickleback! During the mini-beat hunt, one group were thrilled to discover a badger skull hidden amongst the long grass. We decided to leave it at the Discovery Hut where it will be added to the nature table for visitors to examine. At the end of the day, we had a moment of silence in order to listen to all the sounds around us, near and far. We then had to choose one of the sounds and used it to create a forest orchestra!





In Art, we have been studying 'sculpture'. We have explored the work of Barbara Hepworth and used this to inspire our own ideas. We created these colourful paper sculptures using a range of techniques such as twisting, folding, looping, rolling and fringing. We also worked in teams to construct a giant sculpture using playground equipment.



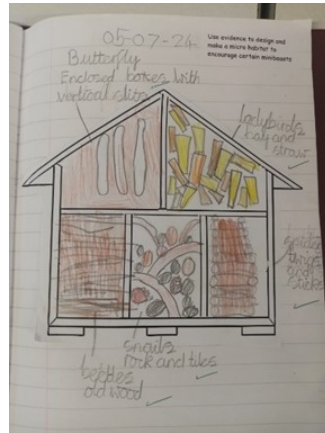
Our final project was to make monsters out of clay. First, we created a 'thumb' or 'pinch' pot for a huge mouth and then added the features to make each monster unique!



The children in Ash Class have enjoyed spending time in our garden throughout this half term with lots of help from our wonderful volunteer gardener Glenn. They have all had the opportunity to help with weeding, planting and watering. Hopefully we'll have some lovely produce to harvest when we come back in the Autumn Term.



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In Science, we have been learning about micro habitats and the different species of invertebrates that live in them. We found out about the different conditions that suit a variety of invertebrates by reading a non-fiction book 'Bug Hotel' then we designed our own bug hotel and then all worked together to create it. We will be monitoring it over the next couple of weeks to see if we get any creepy crawly guests!

Elm Class

This half term our Science topic is Living Things and Their Habitats. Our learning has included finding out about a local farm, how food is produced and what micro habitats exist in the school grounds. We have planted some vegetables in the school garden and tended to them, making sure that they are regularly watered. We have designed and made some paper plate scarecrows and we have also made a scarecrow for the garden using old clothes, a flowerpot and some bamboo canes!



We have explored the school grounds carefully, considering which creatures make the garden their home and why it is a good habitat for them. We have thought about which invertebrates are good for the garden and how we can encourage them to live there by designing and making bug hotels. We have also taken part in the Butterfly Conservation's 'Big Butterfly Count' by observing the butterflies in the school garden and using our butterfly chart to help to identify them.



Chicks!

We had great fun watching our class eggs hatch into fluffy chicks. We were lucky enough to watch some in action! The children loved holding them with their buddies and were very gentle with them.



In DT, we planned, made and evaluated our own fruity faces. The best part was eating them!



In art, we have been learning the technique of weaving. We weaved with crates and ribbons, paper and wool and cardboard. The year 1s made some fantastic butterflies using lolly sticks, wool, pipe cleaners and beads.



In computing this term, the Year 1 children have been developing their programming skills using Scratch Junior. The end of unit task was to design a rocket race, selecting a relevant background, choosing their rocket colours and then linking them to the correct program so they raced. Although they met some challenges along the way, they persevered and produced their race.

Elm Class enjoyed a soggy afternoon at Forest School where they made mud faces using clay and things from the natural environment. They then enjoyed playing games and den building in the orchard.

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