

Dazzling December

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

December 2024

Welcome to the second edition of our monthly newsletter in which we share some of the things the children have been involved in throughout this half-term leading up to Christmas. As always, it is incredible what gets covered by each class and what is included is just a snippet of the curriculum covered.

Killerton Christmas Tree

Children across the school were involved in making decorations this year. The theme is 'Victorian Christmas' and children made origami angels, sewed gingerbread type people, and used old Christmas cards to make bunting to go around the tree and produce some delightful hangings too.



Carol Service

The children have really enjoyed practicing for the Christmas Carol Concert, thank you to all those who came to hear our performance. The children were very good about thinking of how to perform for an audience. Our Year 6 children read their lessons particularly well this year.





Nativity in the Church

The children did a fantastic job of performing 'Our Very Own Nativity' in the church. They looked amazing in their costumes (thank you), remembered their lines and sang beautifully. Well done everyone!



ELF Run

Across last Friday morning, the children in Year 1 to 6 all ran laps at the MUGA to help raise funds and awareness for the local charity ELF. Many children ran 20-30 laps - a fabulous effort by all those involved, with £70 being raised.



PTA Christmas Fair

The small group of PTA volunteers did a wonderful job organising and running the fair this year - the children loved it and all went home with lots of gifts.



Elm Class

In Science, we have been learning about the weather and the seasons. 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 puppets and created shadows on the wall in the playground by blocking the sunlight with our stick puppets.



In DT, the year 1s have been learning to sew using running stitch and overstitch. The children enjoyed planning, making and evaluating their own Christmas decorations and were very pleased with how they looked.



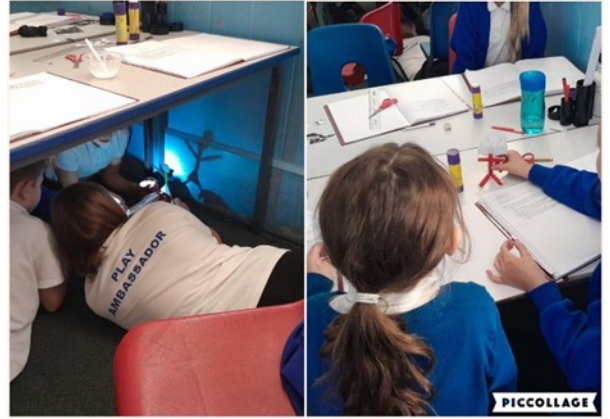
In Maths, we have been learning about symmetry and 2D shapes and their properties. The children used geoboards to make 2D shapes and also tried making symmetrical butterflies using shapes and patterns.



Willow Class

What a fantastic term! We've finished up our learning in **History** by thinking about how the British Empire effects the lives that we have today.

We've also been **working scientifically** to understand how light works, how it moves and how it creates shadows. We completed a brilliant experiment to show how light refracts through water... ask the children in Willow Class to show you how it's done!



As part of our **Civic Award**, we volunteered our time to sell poppies for Remembrance Day after school, and talked about how to give back to the communities we are part of. We have also continued to help develop our empathy skills in **PSHE** lessons and support the children in Elm Class to develop the learning behaviours we expect in our school. Here we are making apple juice together.

We try to have a culture of being active in our class and we loved visiting the MUGA with Mrs Wall as part of our **Forest School** programme. We reminded ourselves how to light fire safely and used the Kelly Kettles to make a hot chocolate.



In **computing**, we have been using two programmes to learn about 3D modelling and how we can use software to help. We started by following rules on Minecraft to put together a building, and then use the programme TinkerCad to explore and manipulate 3D objects.

Merry Christmas from all in Willow!

Oak Class

What a great term of learning Oak has had!

In Art, we have been looking at the work of Cecily Brown and her use of colour and light and dark to create our own impressionist pieces. We mixed a lovely variety of colours and created some works which we hope even the most reluctant art gallery visitor would stop and admire!

In English, we have been using "An Anthology of Intriguing Animals" to write our own fun and informative non-fiction texts. We learned about different sentence structures and engaging the reader, as well as a lot of unexpected animal facts. Our pieces of writing were so good, we decided to turn them into our own Anthology of Intriguing Animals!



This term in PE, we have been doing gymnastics which has included making strong and defined body shapes, improving core strength and jumping and landing safely. Luckily for us, we already have some experienced gymnasts in Oak to help demonstrate the trickier moves!



For Computing this half term, we learned a bit more about animation. We looked at how stop-motion animation is created and made our own animations using 2Animate on Purple Mash and iMotion to create physical movements between frames. The more confident animators started to use "onion-skinning" more effectively to ensure smoother movements between frames, creating more professional-looking work.

In Science, we have been learning about Sound. We recapped the parts of the ear and investigated how sounds are made and heard by the ear using a range of musical instruments. We have just started to look at how sound is measured using decibels and we will continue to experiment with sounds in January.



Our DT theme this term was Levers and Linkages. We investigated different types of levers and planned our own Christmas cards with moving parts. There were a lot of decisions to be made about the design and type of card as well as lots of problem-solving opportunities! Fortunately, with a bit of support from each other, we made cards which were fully designed and made and ready to send!

Beech Class

Shortly after half term, we enjoyed working with Mr Palmer to do some scratting and then press some of the apples harvested from the school orchard so that we could drink some fresh apple juice. We all took it in turns to get involved with this process and many of us tried and actually enjoyed the juice that was produced.



During our history work about the raiding and settling Norsemen, some of us became King Alfred 'the Great' for a short time. Each volunteer got into character and then answered questions from their classmates to see what a tricky job being king was during his reign. We learned that King Alfred was the youngest of five brothers so was not even meant to become king. It is interesting that he then went on to achieve many things, such as making an agreement with the Norsemen to secure peace across kingdoms, building more walled towns, starting a navy and getting books translated from Latin into English so more people could read them.



In Science, we have been making models of the digestive system using materials from the kitchen. Once we overcame the stickiness of it, the children were very good at using objects to represent the different processes involved. We also set up an experiment to demonstrate tooth decay, which made us all think more carefully about the effect of what we eat if we don't carefully brush our teeth!

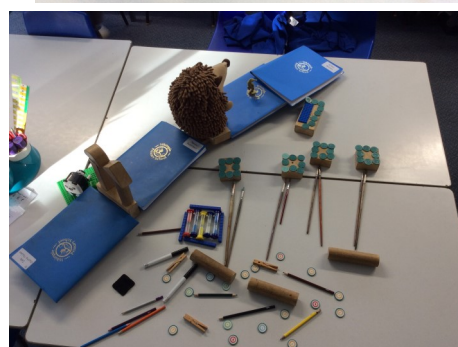


We have been making cam toys for Design and Technology this term, focussing on carefully measuring and cutting balsa wood. We have researched what characters and scenery our customers are interested in and designed our toys to suit them. Making our toys has developed our skills and our ability to go step by step when achieving an outcome.



Ash Class

Our Art this term has been collage. We looked at the work of artist and children's author Lois Ehlert. In her books, such as Leaf Man and Snowballs, she uses a range of collage techniques and materials, including natural objects. She would arrange and overlap them to create pictures for her books. We began by exploring colours and textures by collecting and sorting classroom objects. We then used these objects to create tabletop collages. Next, we read Leaf Man and studied the way leaves and other natural items had been used to create the leaf man and other creatures. We used a range of leaves to produce our own animal collages. They turned out very well!



Ash Class

Science

As part of our 'Wild Weather' science topic, we have been learning about the features of the changing seasons including amount of daylight and weather changes. We measured rain fall and wind strength using our homemade rain gauges and wind streamers.



Design and Technology

We have really enjoyed designing, making and evaluating our Christmas stockings. We learned how to make festive templates using 2D shapes and practised running and over stitch before creating our own designs. Finally, we evaluated our finished product by considering whether our stockings were brightly coloured and festive, and if the stitching was neat and secure. We were all proud of our own unique creations. Great work Ash Class!



Year 1 and 2 had a fantastic visit to Whimble Heritage Centre! We looked at some amazing artefacts from Whimble's past and we had a talk about how World War 1 affected the lives of people in Whimble and what the school was like in the past.



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