

Awesome April

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School April 2026

Welcome to the fourth edition of our curriculum newsletter which shares some of the things the children have been involved in throughout the second half of the spring term. The activities are broad and varied across all aspects of the curriculum.

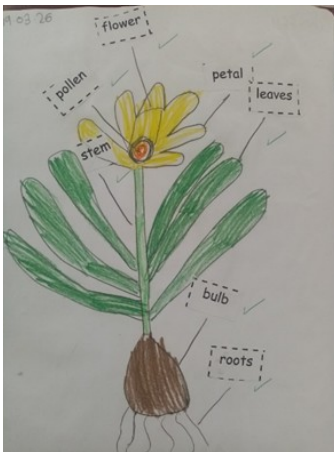
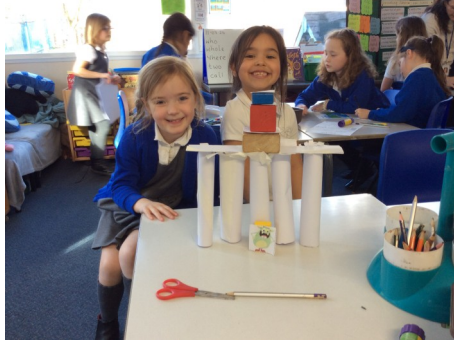


Our Rock Steady bands all performed to their parents and then in front of the children in school on Friday 20th March. It was also Comic Relief, hence the red and funny costumes. They all did an amazing job, it was wonderful to hear the improvement they have made throughout this term.

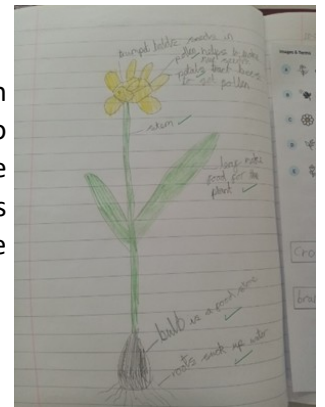


Ash Class

In Design and Technology, the children enjoyed working in pairs to test the strength and stability of various shapes before designing and making a paper bridge for the three billy goats gruff. The bridge needed to be wide enough to cross the river, tall enough for the troll to stand underneath and strong enough for each of the billy goats to stand on. The children demonstrated their creativity and resilience to adapt their plans and keep trying when their first designs were not successful. Great work Ash Class!



In Science, we have been observing bulbs and seeds. We each planted a Harlequin bulb and then kept a plant diary to monitor how it changed over the next couple of weeks. We also learned about the different parts of flowering plants including pollen. We used magnifying glasses to see if we could find pollen and then drew diagrams of small daffodils.



We have completed a number of art activities this half term. We learned all about sketching using a variety of pencil grades.

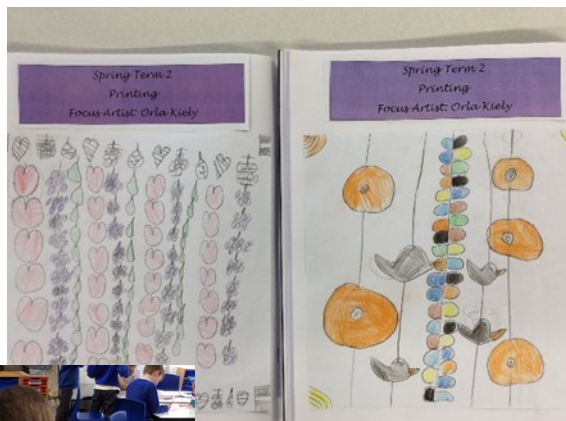


We then used our drawing and shading skills to turn ourselves into kings and queens! We think we look great in our royal outfits! This linked into our history topic about three very famous queens; Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. We have learned lots of facts about each queen and what life was like during their reign.



Ash Class continued

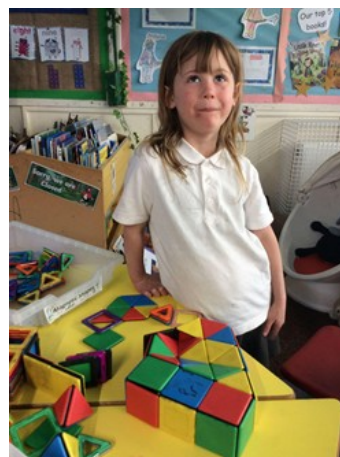
We then studied the work of Orla Kiely, whose well-known designs are commonly seen in many homes on items such as curtains, cushions and pottery. We created our own repeating pattern design and then transferred it onto a foam tile. We used block printing paints to create a clean print and then a repeating pattern.



Elm Class

Our topic this half term was traditional tales.

In our DT lessons, we have enjoyed planning, making and evaluating a house for the 3 little pigs. We had to make sure they were strong enough so that the Big Bad Wolf couldn't blow them down!



Elm Class continued

In Art, we have been learning the technique of 'printing'. The children enjoyed making Easter cards, Mother's Day cards and experimenting with different objects.



Our focus text for Literacy this half term was 'Goldilocks and the three bears'. We have enjoyed acting out the story, answering questions about the story whilst pretending to be one of the characters....



and we even made porridge by following instructions. We added our own toppings, and ate it at snack time! It was delicious!



Beech Class

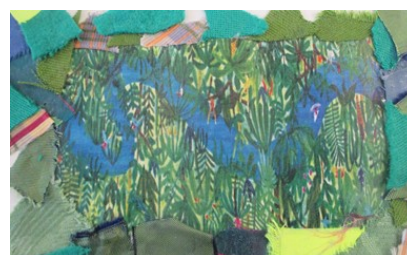
In Beech Class we have been choreographing dances to a Spy Theme tune that use mirroring and matching. We have thought carefully about using varying speeds for canon and unison movements to create different visual effects for the audience - with some excellent results.



In Science, we have been using our DT skills to reinforce shell structures, testing them with different forces to see the changing effects of resistance or gravity on different shapes and weights. We were surprised at how much weight two pieces of paper can support when reinforced with corrugation! Finally, we have looked at simple machines like scissors or even doors on their hinges and pulley systems, thinking about how a small force can be used for greater effect.



To complete our sculpture unit, we spent time making and perfecting our creatures, using clay. Here are our finished outcomes, which we are really proud of, and we hope you like them too.



Also, this term we have been studying the work of author and illustrator Marc Martin.

The artwork in his book 'A River' was our inspiration. After producing an artist page and exploring different effects we could make with different textiles, we planned out and collaborated on creating a bird's eye view of the journey of a river. This idea linked nicely to our Geography unit called 'What Is A River?' We have shown in our artwork the features of a river's course that we have learned about. We are really pleased with how the piece has turned out.

We have also been developing our patience and origami skills as well. We would like to thank Mr Spicer for coming and teaching us how to create some items. Well done to Toby and Charlie too for suggesting that we sell some of our makes to raise money for Comic Relief and ensuring we had lots of stock. The sale on Friday 20th March was a team effort and thank you to everyone who came to buy crafts and support this venture.



Oak Class



Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring shell structures and looking closely at everyday objects to see how they are made. The children have enjoyed taking things apart to understand their design, which has been a great way to spark curiosity and develop problem-solving skills.

They have practised modelling different shapes and joins, building confidence and creativity along the way. Finally, they used what they learned to design and make their own shell structures in the form of keepsake boxes—a project they have worked on with pride and determination.



Oak Class continued

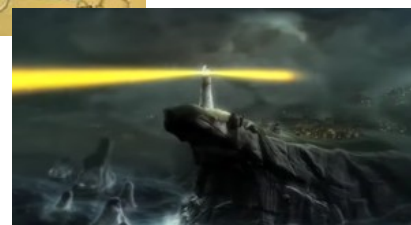
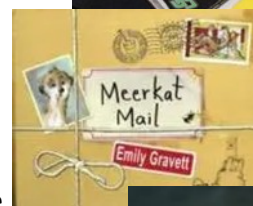
In science, we have been learning about light, reflections and how shadows are made. We have explored how to make the “best” shadows and we made some unexpected discoveries involving translucent water bottles! We thought about how light enables the eye to see and noticed an interesting function of the pupil.



In art, we looked at the work of the Japanese artist Hokusai, famous for his drawings of Mount Fuji. As this coincided with a time when we were writing about the destruction of Pompeii, we decided to make our own drawings of Mount Vesuvius, with a whole range of calm to explosive scenes created!



We have continued to make great progress in our English learning. We have written some funny postcards from our discontented cat Moonlight, based on Sunny the meerkat's travels in 'Meerkat Mail'. We have also been writing some dramatic recounts of an animation 'The Lighthouse' increasing our range of adventurous vocabulary.



Happy Easter from everyone in Willow Class!

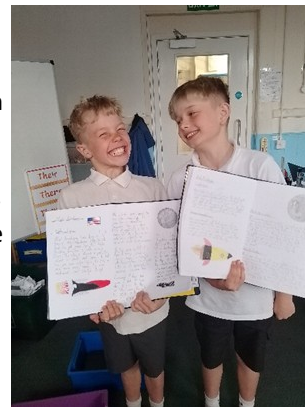
We have had another very busy term and have achieved a lot in our learning since the half-term break.

In **literacy**, we have been busy developing our understanding of writing for different genres, including using the text *Everest* to write our own recounts of explorations over time. Don't these look great?

As part of our **PSHE** learning, the children in Year 6 have been busy completing their Civic Award folders, as part of their commitment to give back to the communities that they are part of.

In **computing**, we have been using spreadsheets to collect, store and present data; Mr Clarke-Daniels did a cool science experiment with us to help us along the way!

We all took part in a long walk around the village as part of our **Outdoor Learning** curriculum, and some brave children have been training hard for the Exmoor Challenge in a few weeks' time!



The Year 6 children have been attending after school on Monday's this half term, to practice for the upcoming SATs tests in the early part of the summer term.

It has been great to see so much effort from the whole group who are striving to do as well as they can academically, alongside everything mentioned above.

Finally a big thank you, good bye and good luck to Mr Clarke-Daniels as he moves on from Whimble to complete the rest of his training! We have been so grateful for your help and support this term and wish you all the best as you start your teaching career.



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