

Fearless February

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School February 2026

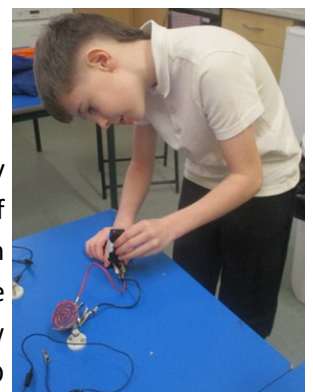
Welcome to the third edition of our curriculum newsletter which shares some of the things the children have been involved in throughout the first half of the spring term. Despite the weather, the children have still managed to do a lot of things both inside and outside!

Beech Class

Last Friday's Forest School session was a real treat, with the pupils enjoying a rare spell of dry weather as they played together and explored the orchard area. They also learned about the process of pyrolysis and how heat can transform natural materials without burning them away. Small lengths of hazel and pieces of denim were placed into a sealed tin and put in the fire's embers. Everyone waited patiently and after half an hour they saw that the materials had turned into charcoal that will be used for some artwork soon.

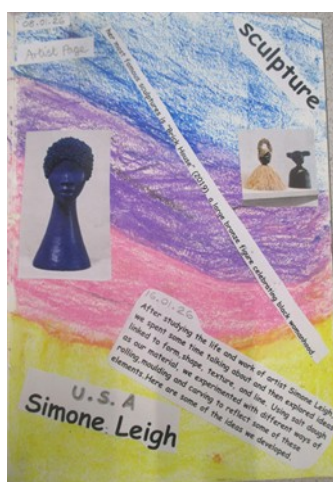
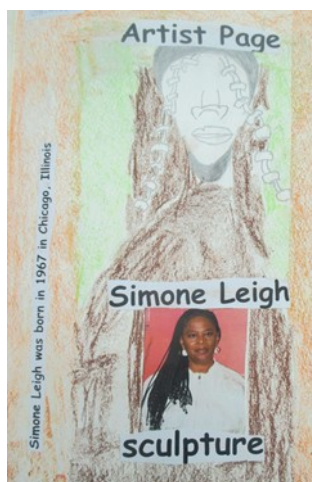


In Science, we have been investigating electrical circuits. We've thought about electricity being like a flow of water and learned that it can be explained by the movement of electrons. Everyone has looked at different conductors and insulators, and have been troubleshooting real life issues with circuits. We've been thinking about ways to reduce electricity usage in school and at home, considering how we could collect data to show improvements. Next half term we will be exploring forces and building different 3D vessels to manipulate resistance.



Beech Class continued

The pupils in Beech Class have enjoyed learning about the sculptor Simone Leigh and creating artist pages about her - exploring how she uses shape, form and texture in her original sculptures. They've also had time to experiment with salt dough, trying out different forms, lines, patterns and surface effects, while also discussing ideas for their sculptures. Next, they'll be moving on to making them from clay and creating human or animal heads inspired by Leigh's style. Each piece will have its own unique patterns, textures and accessories.

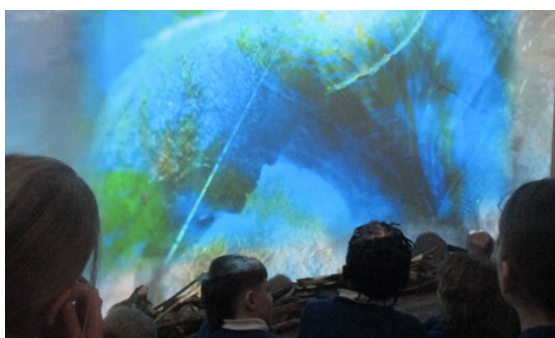


In French, pupils in Beech class have been learning about travel. We've learned names for different modes of transport and how to give commands for directions. These skills we've also used for partner work and when programming B-Bots. During the module we've continued to revise our numbers to 100 in various games.



Next term we will further develop our conversation skills by learning how to direct people to places in a town.

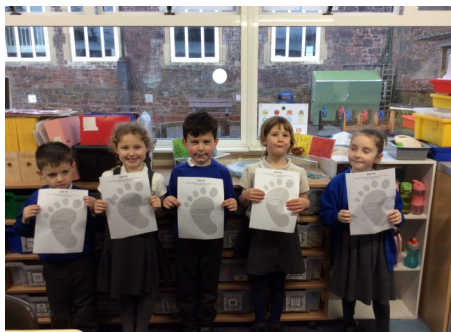
Finally, this half term we visited the Thelma Hulbert Art Gallery in Honiton to take part in a printing workshop. We viewed the Shifting Waterscapes Exhibition first, which told the story of waterscapes and their inhabitants through tapestry, sound, video and painting. Then the children created their own pieces of art using watercolour paints and a printing press.



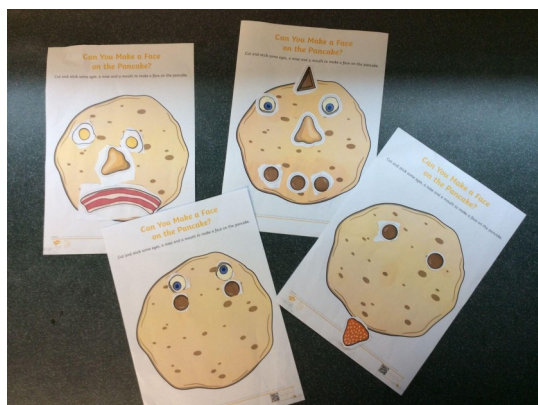
Elm Class

In our 'Jigsaw' circle time sessions we have been learning about how to achieve our dreams and goals. We have learned to keep on trying even when things are difficult and have thought about how to encourage our friends.

We have talked about the different skills we might need when we are older to do different kinds of jobs. In our last session we talked about what it is like to feel proud and discussed the things we are proud of this term. We recorded these on our 'Footprint Awards' which we brought home to share with you this week.



We have also found out about why we have 'pancake day' on Shrove Tuesday. We designed our own pancake toppings and used the toppings to make a pancake 'face'.



Our topic this half term is 'People who help us'. We have been very lucky to have some visitors to our classroom who spoke to us about their jobs.



Elm Class continued

We had great fun learning a Chinese Dance and collaging Chinese lanterns in our Art lesson. We also made some great collages of 'Castle in the Sun' inspired by our focus artist Paul Klee.



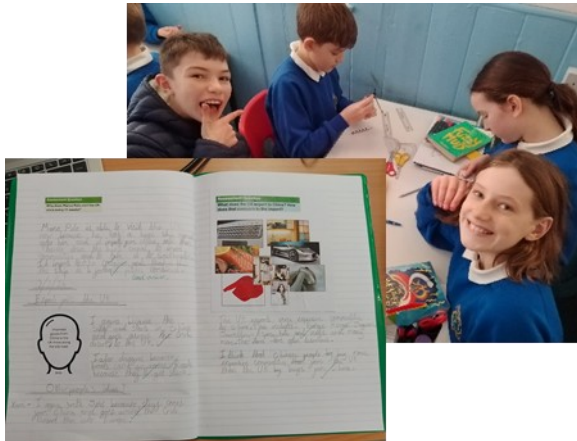
We have also been learning lots during continuous provision. Some children enjoyed making a 'bonfire' and a 'café' while others enjoyed making obstacle courses and models with the construction kits.



Willow Class

Another very busy term in Willow Class! In **geography**, we have been learning how trade works around the world, and how a merchant named Marco Polo lent his name to an enormous container ship. More recently, we have focused on Fairtrade, and how this supports farmers across the world.

We have been working hard to show our thinking in our books this term – doesn't it look great?



We have visited **Forest School** again and were luckier with the weather this time! We learned about how the RSPB support wildlife across the country, and made some bird feeders to hang around the orchard.

We have been continuing to value **PSHE** and our own personal development, and have worked with our buddies from Elm Class to demonstrate positive learning behaviours and develop a love of reading. We have also been considering how our emotions can be impacted by school, home and friendships and have thought of strategies to manage these independently.



We have visited Exeter University to be part of the British Symphony Orchestra's performance, watched some former pupils put on a magnificent rendition of Beauty and the Beast, and have been part of Open the Book assemblies to supplement our studies in **Music** and **RE**.

A very busy half term indeed!



Ash Class

Ash Class enjoyed learning about the traditions associated with Chinese New Year as part of their non-fiction writing sequence of work. They wore red clothes (the colour associated with prosperity and good luck), tasted Chinese food using chopsticks, made paper dragon puppets and took part in a Chinese dance workshop using beautiful fans and parasols.



In maths, we have been learning about time and measures, including weight and capacity. We used a non-standard unit (cupfuls) to measure the capacity of a variety of containers and then used a measuring jug to measure capacity to the nearest 100 millilitres. We also measured the weight of a range of objects to the nearest 100g.



We enjoyed participating in a singing workshop which also taught us all about looking after our teeth. We learned some songs and had great fun using boom whackers and shakers to add a musical accompaniment! We learned a lot about the correct way to brush our teeth and were set a challenge to keep a teeth brushing diary.



Ash Class continued

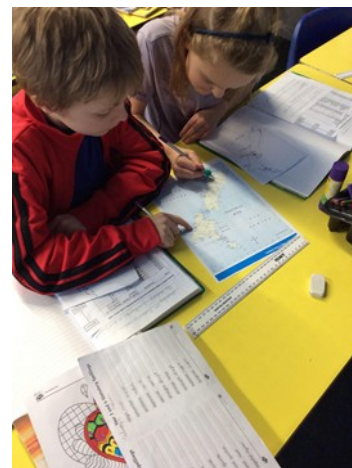
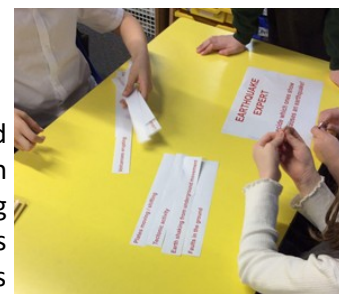
Despite the miserable weather, we really enjoyed the cricket session with Devon Cricket. We started with some throwing and catching and then tried out a range of batting activities. Our skills really improved over the session. The final challenge was to hit a giant tennis ball off a cone. It was much harder than it sounds!



Oak Class

Geography

In geography, Oak Class became Disaster Detectives, exploring earthquakes and volcanoes in New Zealand. They worked in small groups to complete hands-on activities, including identifying causes, locating earthquakes on a map, and creating sequences to show how earthquakes and volcanoes are connected. The students loved being creative, working together, and sharing what they had learned over this geography unit.



Physical Education

Throughout this gymnastics unit, the children have been learning poses, balances, rolls, jumps, and ways to move safely on mats and apparatus. They have worked together to create their own sequences, showing creativity, teamwork, and growing confidence in their skills.



Dental workshops

Last week, we had a visit from dental health professionals! They worked with the children to make up a fun song about brushing our teeth, helping us remember why we brush, how to do it properly, and how often. The students had a great time singing, learning, and practicing good dental habits!



In Art this half term, we have been looking at the work of Hokusai, a Japanese artist who often included Mount Fuji in his work. We are working on our own pieces inspired by Hokusai's style but using Mount Vesuvius as our subject.



In Science this half term, our tasks have focused on different types of rocks, their properties and their purposes. We also investigated the work of a volcanologist and discovered how many different jobs they do in order to monitor and report on volcanic activity.



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