

Magnificent May

Curriculum Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

May 2026

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



Art Display

The term started with our Art Display. Items demonstrating the skills of painting, drawing, printing, textiles, collage and sculpture from across all five classes were on display.



Art Display continued



Beech Class

The pupils of Beech Class really enjoyed contributing to the Art Exhibition earlier this term and showing their outcomes to their friends and family. They also loved looking at all of the artwork that had been created by pupils in other classes in our school and to see which artists and techniques had inspired them.



The year 4 pupils also had a fantastic time on their residential to Dartmoor Zoo - Snoozing at the Zoo. They learned a lot about all of the different animals there, such as lynxes, short-clawed otters, laughing kookaburras, capybaras, ostriches and many more. They learned about what these animals ate, where they live in the wild and how endangered they currently are, which is why many of them are involved in breeding programmes to increase their numbers in the future. The night walk was amazing, where a keeper used an info-red torch, to show the nocturnal behaviour of a wild cat, lioness and cloud rat. There was also time to eat some lovely food, play in the adventure playground and visit the shop.

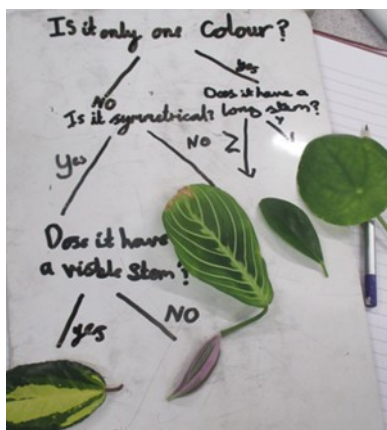
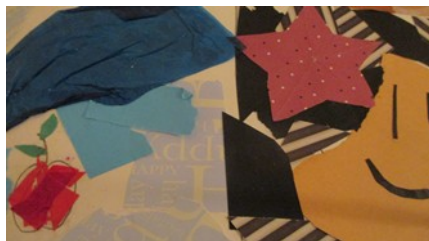


After developing physical skills, focusing on consistency and good control and speedy reactions, we have really enjoyed playing cricket. The pupils have focused on batting and bowling, communicating between fielders to limit the score of the other team. Some have worked well to modal skills learned outside of school and we have all played fairly and practised encouraging each other.



Beech Class continued

The pupils have been exploring the life and artwork of Vik Muniz, an artist known for transforming everyday materials into imaginative images. By studying his creative processes and the way he combines familiar objects, they have gained inspiration for their own collage work. In class, they have been experimenting with mini abstract collages, using a range of found materials, to work out and understand which shape, texture and colour combinations work well together and how they might apply these ideas to their final pieces.



In Science, we have been learning about living things and how they are adapted to their habitats. The class have been using classification keys to sort living things and have written a report about human impacts on our surroundings.



This week the pupils in Beech Class enjoyed a walk around the village of Whimple, where they explored the different types of buildings and the ways land is used in the local area. As part of our Geography fieldwork, we listed what we observed and discussed whether each building or site was residential, commercial, used for leisure or provided public services. We were particularly interested to notice that much of the land in Whimple is currently being used for residential buildings.



Ash Class

The children in Ash class were very excited to meet the animals when Animals 2U South West came for a visit. We learned about animal groups and habitats along with getting an opportunity to handle a hissing cockroach, a stick insect, a gecko and a mouse. The children all listened very well with many overcoming their nerves to touch these unusual animals for the first time.



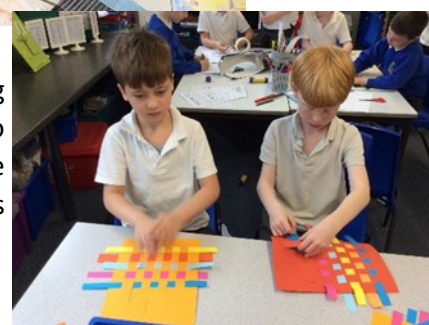
We had a lovely afternoon with Mrs Ley exploring the orchard in spring. First, we took a closer look at the apple trees and made bark rubbings. Later we played some games then, as the sun came out, we all found our own individual spot to sit and observe nature.



We have been learning about Africa for our Geography topic and this linked very nicely with our art. We have studied an artist from Tanzania called Edward Saidi Tingatinga. He is well-known for his beautiful African animal paintings. His style has been used in the Tinga Tales cartoons and books. We created our own animals using simple shapes and bright colours. We then copied these using fabric pens to create some lovely bunting.



We are also learning to weave, taking inspiration from weavers from Ghana who are famous for their Kente cloth. We started with some paper weaving which is trickier than it seems!



Willow Class

A huge well done to all the Year 6s for their efforts last week with the **SATs tests** – we were all so proud of their attitude and for the way they conducted themselves during a tricky week.

We have now started to turn our attention to **our end of year play**... scripts have been given; parts have been allocated; rehearsals have started and we are looking forward to serenading the school over the coming weeks with our singing!



In our **computing** lessons, we have developed our own video games around a specific theme. We learned how to create multiple levels, vary the challenge and make them fun for others who are playing!

In **science** we have learned about the circulatory system and how the blood transports different cells – by working our muscles hard during lessons we quickly realised how it feels when there is a lack of oxygen in our body!

After half term, our science focus will be moving to Earth and Space, and check out this piece of homework which is getting ahead of the learning!



In **literacy**, we have been writing some scary stories based on the fabulous book *The Boy At The Window* and have been learning about how to 'hold back' some information from the reader to help create the spooky unknowns.

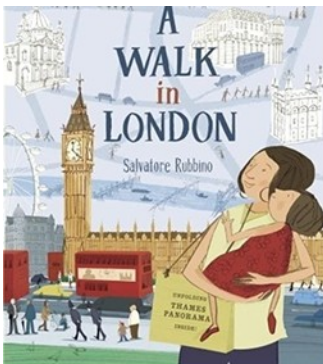
Our **transition** work with a range of secondary schools is continuing and we are looking forward to inviting former students in to share their experiences with the current cohort as the term progresses. We are continuing our **Civic Award** work by supporting our school community too – here we are with Ash Class.



And finally a big thank you to Mrs Giffard (and all others who helped) for organising our leavers' hoodies for this year – don't they look great?

Oak Class

In Science, we have been learning more about what plants need to grow and how roots and stems transport water and nutrients around the plant. We have managed to grow some pea seedlings which can hopefully be planted out in the school garden ready to enjoy later in the summer!



In English, we have written some lovely pieces based on our Year 3/4 residential visit using the book 'A Walk in London' as inspiration. We had a big focus on making sure we punctuated our sentences clearly and correctly, especially when using speech. The children worked hard to include capital letters, full stops, commas and exciting vocabulary in their writing. They have produced some fantastic pieces of work and should be very proud of their efforts.



Oak Class continued

In Art, we have been looking at the work of Brian Rochefort. We tested different techniques using clay and made pot bases with decorations added with slips. These abstract pieces evoke different natural features, including rainforest, ocean and volcano!



On Friday, a wildlife gardener came in to talk to the children in Oak and Beech Class, and they were given tasks to complete outside in the sunshine.



Elm Class

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit from Marie at Animals2U. She brought a cockroach, stick insect, mice and a gecko! We learned lots about the different animals and got to touch them all. The children were all very brave.



In art, we have been learning the technique 'sculpture'. We explored different techniques and tools using the clay.



In our Literacy lessons, we have been looking at the text 'Sam Plants a Sunflower'. The children have enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a sunflower and also planting our class sunflowers and watching them grow. They have produced some excellent writing explaining each stage they have seen.



In our PE lessons, we have loved using the parachute and it has helped us to develop our teamwork and listening skills!



Elm continued

In our PSHE 'Jigsaw' sessions, we have been talking about making friends and how we can be a good friend to others. We enjoyed making friendship bracelets and posters about friendship.



We were very lucky to have a visit from Mr and Mrs Barton who spoke to the children about their jobs as dairy farmers and the children also got to sit in their tractor!



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