

Curriculum newsletter Autumn term 2024

It has been a wonderful autumn term for all of the children and teachers at Knowl Hill CE Primary school. We have lots to celebrate from the children's hard work across the term.

EYFS

We are all extremely proud of how well our EYFS children settled into school life this autumn term. They have been busy getting to know their new friends, as well as their teachers and other staff around the school.

The children enjoyed looking back at pictures of themselves as babies and discussing all the ways that they have changed since then. The children enjoyed learning about themselves, exploring their likes and dislikes and painting their own self-portraits.



The children have also been very busy exploring the school and local environment and making observations about the world around them. They were very excited to venture outside of the school grounds for the first time to go on a walk around the village. They practised following a simple map to find some important local buildings and places and then made their own maps back at school.



After half term, the children started a new topic called 'A Starry Night'. The children had a lot of fun exploring the space-themed activities that had been created in the classroom,



The children learnt about the famous painter Van Gogh and even had a go at re-creating his famous piece 'A Starry Night'.



The children also learnt about the moon landing in 1969 and practiced dressing up as Neil Armstrong and re-creating his famous voyage!

They used construction materials to make their own rockets and role played the excitement of blasting off to space.



EYFS also started their 'Bikeability' lessons and have been enjoying learning how to ride the school's bike. It has been wonderful to watch the children gain independence, develop their social skills and a enjoy being outside.

The final few weeks of term has been all about the celebration of Christmas. We used 'Puddles and the Christmas play' to learn about the meaning of Christmas and the traditions that people enjoy as part of the celebrations. The children really enjoyed making mince pies for the community and learning lots of new Christmas songs. Well done Foundation!



Years 1 & 2

Years 1 & 2 have had a very busy half term learning all about the seaside. The topic commenced with a visit from 'Seaside Sue' to learn all about seaside holidays of the past. This amazing, interactive workshop really brought the Victorian era to life, as the children tried out various activities including, seaside games, visiting the beach café, making shell boxes and much more. They were even treated to a traditional Punch and Judy show at the end!

To continue the seaside theme, the children explored what makes a good sandwich for a seaside picnic! They learn about what makes a healthy diet, and about good hygiene practices when preparing food. They children were able to try lots of different sandwich ingredients before choosing their favorites to design and make their own sandwiches! Their favourite part was evaluating their products when they were able to eat their sandwiches!



The children also learned to name the world oceans and continents. They explore features of each place and made comparisons between oceans and continents that are closer to the polar regions with those closer to the equator.



After half term years 1 & 2 learnt about the famous artist, Claude Monet. They explored some of his famous paintings and learned about the 'tache' technique that he used to make his painting 'Waves Breaking' look like the waves were actually moving. The children also learnt about colour mixing to make different shades of blues and greens. They created their own 'Breaking Waves' paintings and we think their finished work look amazing!



Year 1 & 2 continued to impress us all with their creativity and determination in the subjects of music and computing where they learnt new skills including playing the notes b,a,and g on the recorder, and learning how to use the coding app scratch jr. to create an underwater themed race game.



This term, the children have enjoyed becoming authors and writing their own books! The children have enjoyed writing, illustrating and editing their own books including a book about the seaside, an elf chase and letters to Father Christmas.

The children were really proud of their work and their favourite part was showing off their finished books by reading them aloud to other children.



Years 3 & 4

This Autumn term, year 3 and 4 have been studying volcanoes and earthquakes in their topic 'Beneath the Surface'.

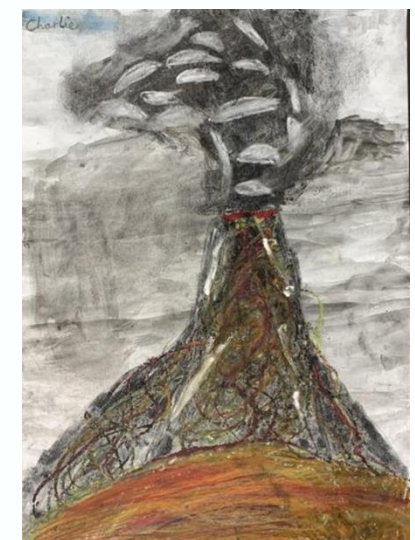
The arrived at school, in September dressed as Ancient Romans ready to start their topic off with a 'bang!' by learning about the destruction of Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupted in C.E. 79. They learnt about the events of the day of the eruption and explored what the evidence found at the site of Pompeii tells us about life as an ancient Roman. They visited St. Albans Verulamium to explore artifacts found left behind from the time when the Romans ruled over the town.

The children learnt about foods typically eaten by Ancient Romans by studying frescoes unearthed in Pompeii. They learnt about fruits and vegetables that grow near the Mediterranean as well and different techniques to prepare safely. The children learn about the importance of good hygiene practices when preparing food. They they designed and made their own Mediterranean pasta salads. They look delicious!



For computing, years 3 & 4 used the school's Micro: bits to create an animation of a volcanic eruption. It included magma rising up the magma chamber before filling the sky on eruption!

Years 3 & 4 continues the theme of volcanoes after half term in their art project. They explored the properties of charcoal, and different techniques to use the charcoal to create different effects on the page. The children applied what they learn to make a piece of art depicting the eruption of Vesuvius in CE 79. The children and teachers were all extremely proud of the amazing artwork that the children created.



For science this term, years 3 & 4 explored the topic 'rocks and soils' they completed many investigations to explore the properties of different rocks and soil samples including permeability test and scratch test. They learnt how different types of rocks are formed during the rock cycle.

Water will not be absorbed by the rock and will not go through if it is impermeable, if it is permeable, you can see holes and the water will go through the rock.

Year 3 pupil



Years 3 & 4 enjoyed a visit to the Church to learn about baptism. They got up close to the font, and learnt about the differences between an adult baptism and an infant baptism. The visit really brought their RE topic to life!

Years 5 & 6

It was a very busy start to the term for years 5 & 6 as they enjoyed both a visit to Blenheim Palace and the residential visit to Hooke Court. These experiences brought to life the topic 'World at War'. At Blenheim Palace, the children worked as code-breakers to decipher hidden messages in order to win a prize! They were able to handle artefacts from the WW2 era such as gramophones, morse code machines and type writers. A tour of the palace also taught the children about WW2 prime minister Winston Churchill.



I liked the trip to Hooke Court because I learnt a lot more about the topic and I ; learnt new interesting facts, such as 'Blitzkrieg' meaning lightning war and what a Morrison shelter was.

Year 6 Child

At Hooke court, the children experienced what life might have been like during WW2 by complete fire drills, taking refuge in an Anderson shelter during a very realistic air raid and cooking using WW2 recipes. They also learnt about the differences in WW1 and WW2 warfare through experiences life in the trenches.

They all enjoyed an evening sing-song around the campfire as well as a VE day part celebration! It was a fantastic experience for the children and teachers!



Back in school, years 5 & 6 continued to explore the theme of 'digging for victory' by learning about seasonal vegetables. They analysed some existing pasty products to see what their nutritional content, ingredients and evaluate their taste, texture and appearance. The children learnt how to make pastry using the 'rubbing in' method. They then designed and made their own war-time vegetables turnovers! Their finished products looked great and the children enjoyed trying their creations.



For science this term years 5 & 6 learnt about the topics of 'forces' and 'evolution and inheritance'. They have been conducting many scientific investigations, including exploring air-resistance by calculating the difference in speed when running with and without a parachute. They learnt about different kinds of forces and how we measure forces in Newtons.

The children also learn about the famous scientist Charles Darwin. They learnt that off-spring usually inherit characteristics from parents by exploring Mr. Men characters! They learnt about the theory of evolution by natural selection, and conducted an investigation to find out which type of beak was the best shape for eating different kinds of bird foods found on different Galapagos islands. They used their findings to explain what Darwin observed when he visited the Galapagos Islands himself.



For geography, years 5 & 6 learnt about Europe. They learnt about different kinds of maps and how political maps change more often than relief maps. They learnt about different tourist regions of Europe including the Alps and the Mediterranean and made comparisons between these regions in terms of climate and landscape. The children learnt about contour lines and how they show the height of the landscape.

They used contour maps from across Europe to inspire their own 3D map creations. As part of this project they learnt how to create many shades of the same colour by gradually adding white and black. We think their 3D maps are very impressive!



This term, years 5 & 6 were able to continue to develop their coding skills using the schools' Micro: bits. They learnt what a variable is in computing and how they can be used to create different programs with a variety of uses. They learnt how to sequence their programming to make a game of noughts and crosses and had fun playing their games together.

