

Curriculum newsletter Summer term 2024

It has been another wonderful term for all the children and teachers at Knowl Hill CE Primary school and hope that the children are looking forward to a a fantastic summer. Please read on to celebrate all that the children have achieved this term!

EYFS

This term, our foundation children became 'Extraordinary Gardeners!' They dissected different plants to look at the different parts. They learnt about the parts of some plants that can be eaten and how eating fruits and vegetables contributes towards a healthy diet. They learnt about food hygiene as they made their own healthy fruit salads. The children enjoyed planting different seeds and looking after their plants to watch them grow!

The children looked closely at different fruits and made observational drawings of what they saw. During this topic, the children also explored the life cycles of caterpillars and chicks and were delighted when their very own chicks successfully hatched!

Below are some comments the children made during this topic:

Bear - I liked to see the chicks grow and I liked holding them and feeding them.

Luna - I liked to stroke the chicks because they were fluffy.

Alex - I liked doing the writing about what plants need because we did lots of writing and I like doing lots of writing.

Milo - I liked learning about the extraordinary gardener because when we were doing it the flowers looked nice and we grew our own pretty flowers.

Clio - I liked the chicks because the chicks were all fluffy. I liked learning about the life cycle of a chick. I loved making books about the chicks.



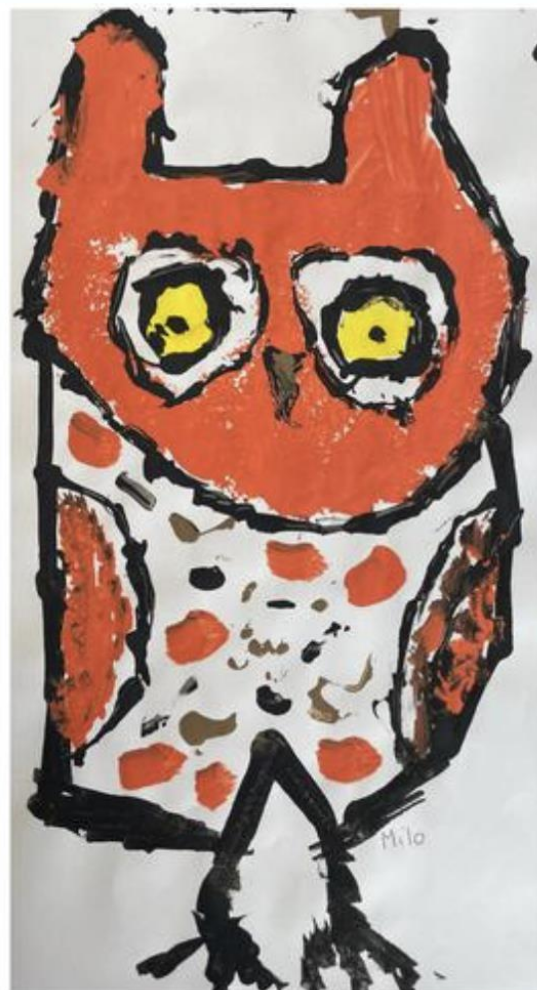
After half term, the children started a new topic called 'Saving Mr. Hoot'. They learnt about different animals and their habitats. The children compared different habitats such as forest, savannah and ocean. They learnt that some animals are nocturnal and used the story of Mr. Hoot to understand that Owls hunt at night time.

The children looked learnt all about owls including looking at their characteristics such as beaks, feathers and claws. They learnt where Owls live and what they eat.

The children learn about different ways that humans can care for animals and their habitats by making bird houses from recyclable materials. They thought about what would happen to an owl if its tree was cut down.



The children compared Mr. Hoot's treetop home with their own houses. They thought about the different kinds of houses that people live in such as flats, terrace and detached homes. They thought about the features that all homes have in common and features that make their homes unique. The children then looked at houses through history and looked at how homes have changed over time.



Jessica - I really liked painting Mr Hoot. We learnt how to paint with sticks and sponges, and I have never done that before.

Amilia - We were learning about animal houses and where they live, I liked making an animal house for Mr Hoot.

Years 1 & 2

This term, year 1 and 2 have been amazed by their topic of 'Our Community'. The topic commenced with a wonderfully immersive workshop about the historical figure 'Florence Nightingale'. This workshop enriched the children's learning of the topic 'medicine women' where they learnt about the lives and achievements of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. They made comparisons between the two women and learnt about the lasting impact they had on the world of nursing today.



For science, the children learnt about animals including humans. They learnt about the different parts of their bodies and which sense is associated with each part.

The children learnt about the ways that they can keep themselves healthy by eating a balanced diet, and by exercising regularly. The children also explored the importance of hand washing by setting up a test to find out the conditions that caused bacteria and mold to grow on a slice of bread!



In geography, the children learnt about the local area. They enjoyed a local walk to explore the village, and learn about the different people who live and work there. Back in school, the children created their own maps of the village, using keys to label the features they had seen.

For D&T, the children learnt how to make free-standing structures. They investigated using buttresses and bases to make a cardboard structure stand up independently. The children then applied their skills to create a 3D map of Knowl Hill village! We think you'll agree that their model village looks fantastic and show off the character of the village perfectly!



For computing this term, the children learnt about programming robots. They explored the different commands that they could give to a Beebot and made predictions about the outcome of a command. They learnt that it is important to input algorithms in a precise order so that the Beebot would travel where you wanted it to. The children learnt how to 'debug' an algorithm if it was incorrect. The children enjoyed programme their Beebots to follow a route on a map that they designed themselves.



For art this term, the children used their creativity to re-invent an everyday object into something new. They explored the work of artist Chris Kenny and how he turns sticks into human-like figures. The children then collected sticks and used a range of craft materials such as wool, fabric and card to reimagine the stick as a figure of the community. It was brilliant to see the children use their creativity and imagination in this art topic.



For music this term, years 1 & 2 learnt how to play the notes B, A and G using the recorder. They learnt the components of a recorder and how play the different notes by covering different holes with their fingers. They learnt to play the tune 'hot cross buns' and enjoyed showing off their learning in their end of term concert for Mrs. Bournier who was very proud of the children for their performances.



Years 3 & 4

This term, year 3 and 4 have been studying the rainforests of the world. The topic got off to an exciting start, as the children dressed up as rainforest explorers for the day! In geography, the children learnt about the locations of rainforests of the world and where these are in relation to the equator. They learnt about the features of the Amazon rainforest and why it is important to protect the rainforest.

In history, years 3 & 4 learnt about the Yanonami tribe who are native to the Amazon rainforest. They learnt that the Yanonami had lived a traditional way of life, without any contact with anyone other than other rainforest tribes for many thousands of years. They learnt that this changed suddenly in 1910 when outsiders first discovered the Yanonami. They learnt how the tribe was impacted by outsiders who wanted to use the rainforest for its natural resources and how significant individual, David Kopenawa, successfully fought for the rights of the Yanonami to own their land.



In art, years 3 & 4 observed pictures of rainforest birds and created observational drawings of them. They explored using a range of media such as paints, chalk, pastels and ink to re-create the colours and patterns found on tropical bird feathers. They applied these skills to create a 3D rainforest diorama scene with a model tropical bird.



For design and technology, year 3 & 4 investigated pneumatic mechanisms. They looked at existing products that create movement through pneumatics. They created their own pneumatic systems using tubing and syringes. They then explored how they could use pneumatics to create a moving rainforest animal toy. We were really impressed by their designs and the children were fascinated at how the pneumatic mechanism opened and closed the mouth of their rainforest creature.

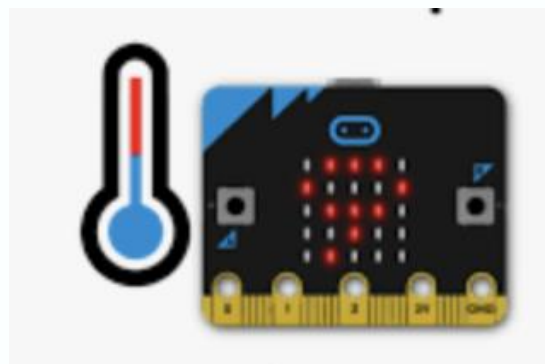


For science this term, the children learnt about states of matter. They learnt about some of the different properties of solids, liquids and gases and how materials can change between states through freezing, melting, evaporating and condensing. The children investigated the melting points of different types of chocolate to develop their understanding of changes of state.

The children also made links to learning about the water cycle in geography.



For computing, the children were exploring collecting and analysing data using the programme Microsoft Excel. They created data loggers by coding the school's Micro:bits to record data on temperature and tested different parts of the school to identify areas that are warmer and cooler. The children transferred the data to excel and analysed it to create charts and bar graphs.



Years 5 & 6

Year 5 and 6's topic 'Full of Beans' started with an exciting visit to Cadbury World where the children were able to learn about the chocolate production, advertising and fair trade. They also took part in a workshop about the Ancient Maya.

For Design and Technology, the children explored chocolate packaging design. They conducted some market research and looked closely at existing products to inform their designs.

The children then designed and made their own packaging for their own home-made chocolates. The packaging and chocolates were tested on the children's families where they received some consumer feedback that informed their evaluations.



For history, years 5 & 6 learnt about the ancient Maya. They learnt that the Maya were an advanced civilization with writing, maths and a calendar being features of their society. They learnt about the four main periods of the Maya civilisation and how the reasons for the downfall of the Maya.

The children learnt about the lifestyle of the Maya such as diet, religion and entertainment; they even tried out the game of Pok-a-Tok.

For geography, years 5 & 6 used atlases and maps to locate countries around the world that grow cacao. They made comparisons between the climates and economic status of countries that grow cacao and those that consume the finished chocolate bars. The children explored trade routes and considered the concept of food miles and the impact of transporting goods on the environment. The children learned about the lives of cacao farmers through a case study and learnt about the importance of fair trade for these farmers.

For music, the children learnt to play the recorder. They learnt the notes BAGCD F# and E on the recorder. They then composed their own mystic Maya piece of music and performed to their class.



For computing, the children used the programme 'Scratch' to create a virtual simulation of their Aladdin set. They programmed their sets to include music and lighting that could be controlled by sprites in a control panel.



The second half of the term focused on the school production of Aladdin! For art, the children created mini-sets of scenes from Aladdin. They explored scale to learn how to make features in proportion to one another, and used mixed-media to build their final outcomes.



Trips and Enrichment

This term, we were delighted to have been able to take all of the children on some fantastic educational visits.

Waltham Farm

Foundation visited Waltham farm to learn about the plants that are grown there. They were able to look around the farm to see some of the animals that live there too.

Oscar - I loved Waltham Farm, and I loved seeing the pigs.



Maidenhead Synagogue

Year 1 & 2 visited Maidenhead Synagogue as part of their learning in R.E. The children learn all about the Jewish Celebration of Shabbat. They learnt that most Jewish people will do no work on Shabbat and will go to the synagogue. They learnt that Shabbat helps Jewish people to remember that God rested after creating the world.



Kew Gardens

Years 3 & 4 visited Kew gardens where they were given a tour of the tropical glass house. They enjoyed a hands-on and informative workshop about the rainforest and the natural resources that can be found there.



Cadbury World

Years 5 & 6 had a fantastic visit to Cadbury World where they learnt about the importance of Cocoa to the ancient Maya. They were able to see real cocoa pods, filled with cocoa beans and learnt how the Maya created a chocolate drink from the beans.

