

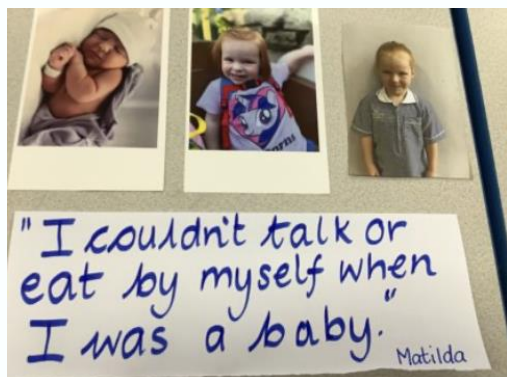
Curriculum newsletter Autumn term 2023

It has been a wonderful autumn term for all of the children and teachers at White Waltham CofE Academy. 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.



Below are some comments about what the children learnt during the term.

"I have learnt how we are all different - hair colour, eye colour, how tall we are and skin colour."

"I have learnt what the 5 senses are and how we use them."

The children have also been very busy exploring the school and local environment and making observations about the world around them. Below are some comments the children made on an autumn walk.

"I have learnt about autumn and that leaves change colour and fall off the trees."



The children 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 'Star In a Jar'. The children had a lot of fun exploring the space-themed activities that had been created in the classroom,



The children learnt about the moon landing in 1969 and practised dressing up as Neil Armstrong.

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



The final few weeks of term was 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 learning Christmas songs to put on their own carol concert for their families, which was a great success.

Puddles and the Christmas Play



Years 1 & 2

This term, year 1 and 2 have been engrossed in their topic of 'Once Upon A Time'. During this topic we read and enjoyed a wide range of traditional tales including; The Three Little Pigs; Goldilocks and the Three Bears; Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel.



For art, the children studied the famous artist, Pablo Picasso. They learnt how to mix primary colours to make secondary colours and how to use white and black to vary the tone. The children then created their own self-portraits inspired by his unique style.



The children had the opportunity to make their own moving stories in D&T, inspired by the story 'Rapunzel'. They practised making slider and lever mechanisms, before designing a page to illustrate the story.



In PE, the children have enjoyed the sports of tag-rugby, football, netball and gymnastics.



For science, the children investigated the properties of materials to decide which was the best material to make a coat for the Little Red Hen. They enjoyed setting up an experiment to test if materials were waterproof or not.

"I learnt how we can test a material to see if it is waterproof or not."

"I learnt the differences between man-made and natural materials."

"I learnt why it is important to use the right material to make an object."

After half-term, the children learnt about the historical event of the Great Fire of London. They learnt when and how the fire started and the reasons why it spread so quickly. The children were very enthusiastic about this topic, which was enriched by a visit to the Tower of London for a workshop about the fire.



Here are some comments the children made throughout the topic:

"The Great Fire of London started because a baker called Thomas Farriner burned a pudding"

"It started in a bakery because the baker left the oven on. The fire spread and they couldn't put it out, the people went to the River Thames to get safe, some people went on boats, the whole town got burned down"

"They didn't have fire-engines in 1666 so they knocked down houses to stop the fire spreading"

"Samuel Pepys lived at the time of the fire and he wrote a diary about it"



The children were delighted to spot some London landmarks on their journey to the Tower of London as they had recently been learning about these in geography, which focused on the UK and its capital cities.



"I enjoyed learning about the different capital cities in the United Kingdom, especially as we got to visit London for our school trip."

"I know how to read a map of the UK, there are 4 countries; England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland."

The children also visited the church to look for signs of advent and to hear from Rev. Dave about why the church is an important place for Christians at Christmas time.





Years 3 & 4

This autumn term, year 3 and 4 have been studying the Vikings. They learnt who the Vikings were, where they came from and where they settled. They learnt that the Vikings were invaders and learnt how they lived their lives over 1000 years ago.

The topic was enriched by a visit to Ufton Court for a Viking experience day. Here the children explored Viking artefacts, played games that the Vikings played and learnt about Viking customs and traditions.

"They taught us some games that Vikings used to play it."

"I learnt how to say goodbye to Vikings who pass away. They were put on a boat with all their belongings. An arrow that was on fire was then shot towards the boat to set it on fire."



"I learnt how to build a house by weaving sticks"

"We made a spark with steel and a flint to make fire"

"We learnt how to make wool to make clothes, like the Vikings did"

"I learnt that Vikings settled around the year 800, they settled in Norway Denmark and Sweden"

"I enjoyed learning about where the different countries are on a map and how the Vikings used their longboats to move between them"

In Science, the children learnt about the topics of habitats and electricity. They learnt how living things are grouped by their observable characteristics. The children also learnt how habitats are influenced by humans in positive and negative ways.

"I learnt the difference between a reptile and amphibian. Amphibians live on land and water and reptiles only live on land."

"I learnt that the natural environment is being ruined by humans by polluting the land and oceans with plastic and rubbish."

"I learnt that scientists group living things as:

- Reptiles
- Fish
- Mammals
- Amphibians
- Birds.

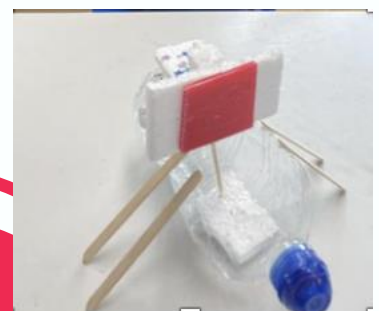


The children learnt how to make a simple electrical circuit. With a cell, wires and a light bulb. They investigated materials that make conductors and insulators to design and make their own electrical switches to control their circuits.

In art, the children learnt about the famous artist Yayoi Kasuma. They studied her unique style of painting using dots and vibrant colours. The children learnt to mix secondary and tertiary colours and to select colours using a contrasting and complimentary colour palette. They completed the unit by making a self portrait in the style of Yayoi Kasuma.



For D & T, the children explored the famous Viking longship boat. They came up with design criteria to create their own versions and designed and made them with a range of materials. They enjoyed testing their designs to evaluate if it would float.



Years 5 & 6

Year 5 and 6's Tudor topic started with an exciting visit to Hooke Court. During this visit the children were able to try cooking Tudor knot biscuits and stews, exploring Tudor crafts and clothing as well as a time-team archeological dig. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities and learnt an incredible amount about life in the Tudor times.



"I learnt that the rich people had meat and very little vegetables. Whereas the poor people had leftovers of meat if they were lucky. The poor people ate pottage which was made up of vegetables and at times some meat scraps."

"I learnt that sugar was very rare during Tudor times because sugar was brought from countries of exploration making it costly, which only the wealthy could afford."



"Tudor men's trousers got shorter every year until they were really short. Men wore silk stockings to show off their calf muscles to attract a woman."



"I learnt that black teeth was a sign of wealth. This was because sugar was very expensive so only the most wealthy could afford it."

The Tudor topic was also enriched by a visit to Hampton Court Palace – the palace of King Henry VIII himself. Here the children explored Tudor exploration and trade with a geography-based workshop. They were also able to explore the great hall, state apartments and kitchen of the palace.

"I learnt that Tudors loved exploring different parts of the globe, this is called circumnavigating"

"The Tudors world maps were very different from our world maps, this is because in Tudor times they did not have the same technologies that we do now, for example they didn't have satellites to be able to see the world from above"



In art, the children learnt about the portrait artist Hans Holbein the younger, famous for painting many Tudor royals. They explored the style of Tudor portraits and how the rich used these to demonstrate their wealth and power.

The children learnt colour mixing techniques as well as how to correctly draw the proportions of the human face. The children completed the unit by painting their own self-portraits in the style of Hans Holbein the younger.



In Science, the children learnt about the circulatory system through the topic 'Animals including humans'. They also learnt about the effects of exercise on the heart and the effects of tobacco, nicotine and alcohol. The children learnt about the changes that occur as we grow from babies through to old age.

As part of the topic, the children had the opportunity to dissect a lamb's heart. This helped them to see up close the anatomy of the heart.



In D & T, the children considered the problems faced during Tudor times for pests and rodents such as rats. They explored mechanisms to create a rat-catcher that wouldn't harm the animal inside. They decorated their rat-catchers with designs appropriate to the Tudor time period.



"I learnt that the aorta is thick and carries blood at high pressure."

"I learnt the negative short-term effects of drugs and alcohol on the body, such as headaches and depression."

"I learnt that the heart has 4 chambers and how it pumps blood around the body."



RE and Art Week

This autumn term, we held an RE and art themed week using the Spirited Arts competition. We planned this year's theme to be 'All God's Creatures'.



We encouraged children to learn about a wide range of world faiths, focusing in particular on their beliefs about animals.

We invited professional artist, and friend of the school, Gabi Goodson in to work with the children to develop artwork inspired by the theme. The children were all given a canvas to paint a portrait of an animal.

God chose Noah to build the ark because he was a good man and he made green choices. He made an ark and he put all the animals on the ark to save them from the wicked people who weren't taking care of them.

Amelia.

Noah put two of each animal on the ark to save them. He was not happy with the people, so he asked Noah to build an ark and put two animal pairs on it. A female and a male of each animal. It took 40 days and 40 nights for the storm to stop.

Aimelie.

I learnt that Hindus believe that humans and animals should be treated the same, so no animals are higher than each other. I agree with that and I think we should show stewardship over every living thing.

Charlie

I liked painting the background because we got to use sponges to paint with.

Jacob

My favourite bit was doing the sunset because I liked all the different colours.

Lizzie C

I liked painting the orangutan because it was an interesting way to show the change in their habitat.

Sophie

