

# Curriculum Newsletter

## Summer 2023



### Blue Class

This term Blue Class have been learning about Traditional Tales and People Who Help Us. We have had so much fun playing with small world toys related to Traditional Tales, which has included a lot of pigs and ducks! Our trips have included visiting a Hindu Temple and meeting some police officers. In cooking, the children have been mashing and peeling, making mashed potato and guacamole and peeling apples and potatoes to make crisps all of which were very yummy!



### Red Class

This half term we have been learning about traditional tales in Red Class. We have read the stories 'Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'Three Little Pigs' and 'The Ugly Duckling'. All our activities have been related to these stories. In Art, our topic has been collage and we have enjoyed collaging houses, bridges and animal masks. We went on a trip to Wymondly Woods to find sticks and see if we could build a house like the pigs, and walked across the bridge to look for the troll underneath. In Computing we have been using the programme 2Simple, and making houses, building farms and drawing our favourite animals. In Cooking we have been focussing on mashing and pouring. We have made smoothies, fruit ice lollies and egg and cress sandwiches.



### Yellow Class

In the summer term the children in Yellow Class enjoyed Traditional Tales as one of their topics. The children were already familiar with some of the stories and had fun exploring them through different activities. The children sequenced the stories, such as 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Ugly Duckling', and generated IVC sentences so that they could try and write the sentences. They also explored art activities linked to the stories and even acted the stories out by using masks, exploring with the other children in their class. They enjoyed class trips out on the school minibus to go and look at and find out about different animals.

### Green Class

This term in Green Class we have been learning about animals and water. We began our topic with the focus on animals and all chose what we would like to discover about this topic. We had a fun sensory experience of rescuing polar bears who were stuck in icebergs! The children were given tools and we chipped away as a class group until the Polar bear were free! In maths we have been covering shape and exploring 3D shapes, using shapes for specific purposes and also creating models with arches. In cookery, we have been practising grating and made cheese sandwiches. Our water wall bought from our class budget has been a hit and a great way to introduce our current water topic. We have been filling, emptying, pouring and exploring fun water beads with tweezers working on our fine motor skills! It has been a welcome fun activity in the hot weather too!





### Star Class

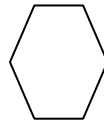


Last half term our topic was Under the Sea. The children enjoyed sharing their knowledge about different sea creatures and finding out about ones they hadn't come across before. As part of Literacy the children went in search of treasure and wrote about what they had found it and created poetry inspired by the sea. In Art we were exploring how to mix colours and how to change the shade of a colour. We looked at a variety of examples of art inspired by the sea and used ideas from these to create our own sea art using Pointillism, watercolours, collage and printing. In Music we were finding out about Pitch and were introduced to playing the violin. We worked on our throwing, catching and batting skills in PE and then used these skills to play a simple team game. In RE we enjoyed exploring some of the events used as celebration in the festival of Onam, looking at some of the dance and theatre performances, creating Rangoli patterns and taking part in a tug of war competition with Pyramid and Hexagon.



### Purple Class

This term we have been learning about Animals. We have read the books I love Animals, Polar Bear, Polar Bear and We all went on Safari. We have learnt about different animals and their habitats. In art we have been drawing different animals and have added colour to make them better. In cooking we have been using different equipment such as mashers and peelers to make soup, apple crumble and mashed potato. We have been on a few trips and really enjoyed going to the farm to see the animals. We have enjoyed our topic of striking and fielding in PE, throwing, catching and using a cricket bat to hit the ball.



### Hexagon Class

This Half Term we have done a lot of exploring including a visit to the Pegsdon Nature Reserve to start off our new topic 'Famous for more than 5 minutes'. For this trip we became explorers and went to the top of the steep hill to create a field sketch. This came after our fantastic explorer day where children created shelters, practised making arm slings and also a stretcher while learning about historic explorers on their fact hunt! Cooking has also been a hit with Hexagon class this term as we are learning to use self-scan checkouts. One of our excursions for this included us exploring our local area to walk to the shop and purchase ingredients for our salad. Everyone was able to find something they would like to put in their dish. In PE we have been getting ready for sports day throwing wellies and javelins, practicing jumps and runs.



### Pyramid Class

A favourite book we read as part of our Under the Sea topic was *The Whale Who Wanted More*. We enjoyed watching the webcams of the Georgia Aquarium as inspiration for our writing in English. In Understanding the World we learned about the Great Barrier Reef and used objects such as ropes, shells and small-world toys to create maps of Australia and of Yoshi the sea turtle's amazing journey. In Maths we worked on measures, position and direction, and on fractions of objects and amounts. We have been corresponding with Mark Mechan, the author-illustrator of *Welly Boot Broth*. We looked at the changes Mark made to his story over six drafts, and he answered our questions about the book-making process. As an introduction to our topic, Famous for More Than Five Minutes, we held a successful Explorer Day where we learned about significant individuals such as Ernest Shackleton and Florence Nightingale. We built shelters, practised first aid, made stretchers to carry our "injured" friends and had a fact hunt about important figures.





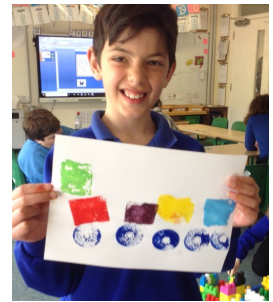
### Triangle Class

This term our focus books have been “The Train Ride” and “The Wheels on the Bus” and the children have enjoyed a range of activities linked to these stories/rhymes. Our role play area was turned into a train station and then a bus station and the children were encouraged to get ready to go on a journey. Through Play and Learn we have been counting passengers on the bus, tracing transport patterns, bubble wrap painting our bus templates, making train tickets and identifying letter sounds. Our music topics were linked to buses forms of transport and the children explored different sounds and textures using a range of instruments, linking these to the stories and creating sound effects to match. They even used scarves to show the bus wheels turning round and round. The children have worked together to practice their fine motor skills through turn taking and peer games and also sorting objects and completing craft activities. We have enjoyed some great fun outside in recent weeks, making the most of the summer weather in the garden and even splashing about in our paddling pool! What a great way to end the school year!



### Cone Class

In Cone Class over the Summer term we have looked at The Train Ride by June Crebbin and The Wheels on the Bus. All of the children have loved these stories and songs. We have had some fantastic trips where we accessed public transport using the train to ride to Stevenage and then head back, as well as walking to a local bus stop getting the bus into Letchworth to get our shopping ready for cooking later in the day. In our role play area we have had both a train and bus station and the children have loved creating tickets and re-enacting our trips. We have created lots of IVC sentence work about our experiences and some of our favourite modes of transport. The children have loved transport themed maths work and have created a range of amazing artwork.



### Cube Class

During the first half of the summer term, our topic was Space. We had a great time learning about this topic and created some lovely space-themed art work during our ‘bucket’ lessons. This half term we are focusing on transport. Cube class are thoroughly enjoying this topic. Trains are a firm favourite! We will be going on a train later this half term to visit Stevenage. The children recently visited a Hindu Mandir (temple). They explored religious artefacts, asked lots of questions and thoroughly enjoyed the experience Cube Class enjoy both music and cooking. During music last half term we focused on playing a rhythm. This half term we are applying this knowledge whilst making different sounds on one instrument using our hands and beaters in different ways. During our cooking lessons we are learning to roll out dough and use cooking cutters.

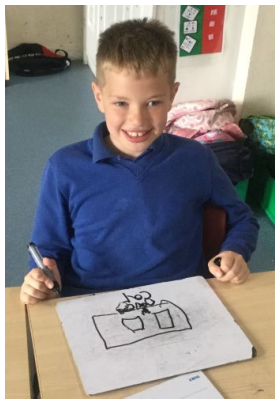




## **Sphere Class**

In Summer Term 1 Sphere Class based their work around the topic 'Space'. We based our learning around the story 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy and looked a selection of books about space, the planets and space travel. We spent time sequencing the story 'Whatever Next' and writing our own sentences about what we thought could happen next or our favourite parts of the story. We then moved on to recording our own space facts. In Maths we were working on individual targets for both Maths supplementary and Maths core. In geography sessions we looked at our place in the world, learning about the country we live in when we had the Coronation of King Charles and also worked on learning the names of the planets and what it was like on each one. In PE we were working on our throwing catching and batting skills and used these to play games of rounders, even playing against Cube Class in some of our PE sessions. It was brilliant so see the children picking up the rules so quickly.

In Summer Term 2 we have been working on looking at transport. The children have enjoyed sharing their own knowledge and experiences of different forms of travel including planes, cars, trains, trams and boats! The children are enjoying expanding their sentences and vocabulary by describing different vehicles, talking about their size and colour. In science we have been conducting our own investigations using ramps and cars and it has been lovely to hear the children making predictions before testing their own theories about what will happen. In PE sessions we have been working to develop our athletic



## **Music group**

We had the privilege of taking fourteen children to the Royal Albert Hall to perform in this year's Hertfordshire Gala as part of a massed choir. They worked extremely hard to rehearse and learn the songs and signs for the performance. They had the opportunity to attend an SEN rehearsal at Lonsdale in preparation and then travelled by coach to London on the day, rehearsing in the morning and performing in the afternoon. It was a long but very enjoyable day. The children were very well behaved and everyone was impressed with how well they represented Woolgrove School. They should be very proud of their achievement.

