



Woolacombe School Newsletter Spring 1 28th January 2022

Friday 28th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great start to the Spring Term with a lovely first few weeks back at school with many wonderful learning opportunities for the children.

The themes of learning in each class are well underway and teachers are working hard to ensure lots of enriching learning experiences are available to all. We welcomed, Tom Poole, our new sports coach from Primary Sports who will be working across the school on Mondays supporting the delivery of PE, lunch time and after school activities.



Well done to our fantastic Year 5/6 athletes made it through to the next round of the indoor athletics competition being the winners of the local learning community competition. Finals here we come!

We have also started an exciting Oracy and Art Project with Beaford Arts called 'Voice to Tell a Story'. Our Year 4 children are participating in weekly sessions with Beaford Arts storytelling specialist Lisa Schneidau and Art specialist teacher Caroline Preston. They will be working with the children across the Spring and Summer terms.

Our focus Character virtues for the start the term have been helpfulness and critical thinking and the children have already been demonstrating fantastic **helpfulness, a civic virtue** and **critical thinking, an intellectual virtue**, across all aspects of school life.



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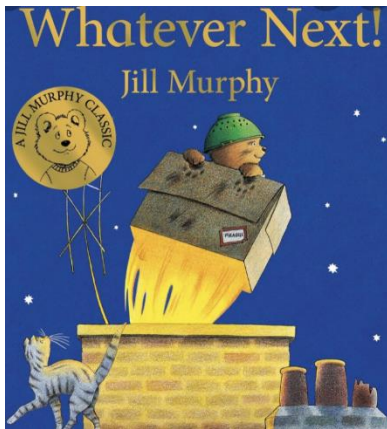
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Curriculum 360 across the Spring Term

Please find below how our **Curriculum 360, Academic Excellence, Character Education, Community, Digital and Innovation** is being implemented throughout the curriculum.

Academic Excellence

Reception and KS1



Reception class has been enjoying the start of this term's Early Years topic, Starry Night. We have been exploring the differences in the world at night compared to during the day and learning about the importance of a good night's sleep. Space has really captured the children's imaginations and they have been fully immersed in astronaut and alien themed learning and role play! Year 1 and 2 have been fully



immersed in their new topic too, Bright Lights, Big City, and have enjoyed sharing what they have learnt in their Geography and Literacy lessons about the United Kingdom and London Landmarks.

Year 3 and 4

Rocks, Relics and Rumbles

Structure of Earth
Earth is made up of five layers. From the top, they are: the crust, the mantle, the outer core, the inner core, and the atmosphere. The crust is the outermost layer and is the thinnest part of the Earth.

Types of rock

There are three main types of rock in the Earth's crust: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. Each type has different characteristics and is formed in different ways.

Fossils

Fossils are the remains or impressions of plants and animals that have lived in the past. They are preserved in rocks and can be used to study the history of life on Earth.

Mary Anning

Mary Anning (1792-1847) was an English fossil collector. She found the first Ichthyosaurus fossil in 1801. Her work helped scientists understand the history of life on Earth.

Uses of rocks

Rocks are used in many ways, from building houses to making tools. They are also used in art and science.

Soil

Soil is the material that covers the Earth's surface. It is made from a mixture of minerals, organic matter, and air. It is essential for plants to grow.

It has been a fabulous start to the term and our new topic, Rocks, Relics and Rumbles. The children have been really enthusiastic, bringing in their own rock and fossil collections and presenting them to the class. We have begun to learn all about the geology of the Earth, writing reports on its structure, including oceanic and continental crusts, as well as the features at the boundaries of plates and volcanoes! We hope to

cap off their learning with a trip to Lyme Regis later in the term. Year 4 have also begun their Stories Through Art project with Beaford Arts and we look forward to seeing how this progresses throughout this half term. Year 3 have started their swimming sessions, which is a new experience for some of our newest members of the class. It is great to watch their enjoyment in our local pool.

Plate tectonics

The Earth's plates are made of solid rock and are constantly moving. They are pushed together, pulled apart, or slide past each other. This causes earthquakes and volcanoes.

Earthquakes

An earthquake is the sudden shaking of the ground. It is caused by the movement of tectonic plates. Earthquakes can cause damage to buildings and infrastructure.

Volcanoes

A volcano is a mountain that has a hole in the top. Magma flows out of the hole and can be very hot. Volcanoes can cause damage to buildings and infrastructure.

Tsunamis

A tsunami is a series of waves caused by a sudden displacement of water. It is caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or landslides. Tsunamis can cause damage to buildings and infrastructure.

Term Dates 2021-2022

Spring Term

Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 4th January
Term begins
Wednesday 5th January

Key Dates
Year 5/6 trip to Rosemoor
8th February

Parent Consultation Week
14th -18th February

February Half Term
Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February

Year 3/4 Performance
Pirates Vs Mermaids
31st March TBC

Easter Service
Thursday 7th April TBC

Last Day of Spring Term
Friday 8th April

Summer Term

First day of Summer Term
Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday
Monday 2nd May

KS2 SATs week 9th-13th May

Summer Half Term

Monday 30th May 2022-Friday 3rd June 2022

Non – Pupil Day Friday 15th July 2022

Last Day of Summer Term
Friday 22nd July

Year 5 and 6

We've kick-started the term with our new topic - SOW, GROW & FARM. Whilst we prepare for our exciting trip to Rosemoor Gardens in February, we've been exploring our **knowledge organisers** and revisiting prior learning about plants, where food comes from and also using a new app (vegplotter.com) to design and create our own allotment. The Year 6s have also dived more deeply into their allotment design using their mathematical skills to measure the perimeter and area of certain raised beds and areas to develop mindfulness. Linking across the curriculum for our writing, we've been creating character descriptions and in particular - setting descriptions - using our geographical vocabulary based our new class texts.



Character Education

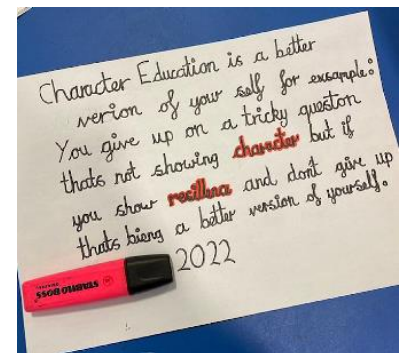


We have been considering ways in which we can display the Character Virtues of: helpfulness, caring, Critical thinking and Honesty this month. We will be exploring these through phase assemblies, stories and follow up sessions with lots of discussion back in class.

We are also learning about how we can develop into Global Changemakers, young people who will go out and make a difference in the world. As part of our Character Education journey children will take part in 6 Inspirational Changemaker Challenges each year:

Inspiring Speaker, Inspiring Skill Builder, Inspiring Adventurer, Inspiring Volunteer, Inspiring Researcher, Inspiring Leader.

Class teachers will share more information about this throughout the year as we start to build our portfolios and reflect on our learning independently and as a learning community. We loved the example from Roca in Year 6 (right).



Community

The whole School enjoyed a follow up assembly with Sophie from Edukid who is currently out in Uganda, supporting Patricia and many other children. Additionally, the children will be participating in an Easter Service at the St. Sabinus later in the term.

Reception and KS1

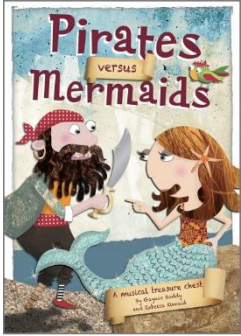
We ended last term on a real high with our brilliant nativity and KS1 production of Elfana. Thank you so much to our wonderful families for getting fully involved, learning lines, songs and making costumes! It was wonderful seeing so many parents come along to our community event and help set up the hall for the KS1 production. Many thanks again for your time and efforts, it made the production a really special occasion.



We

have enjoyed involving our parents in our learning via dojo and Tapestry and will be holding parent workshops and events for each year group throughout the year and Reception have even made it down to the beach for their first Sea School lessons thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers. It's always lovely to get parents involved and welcome you into school so watch this space for more opportunities!





Year 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 are going to be putting on a play this term, called PiratesVersus Mermaids. There will be a matinee performance for the school and an evening performance for the parents. We will be exploring the beach more this term as part of our topic on rocks, but also in support of maintaining a clean beach for the community and a commitment to the planet when it comes to removing plastic waste. The children are becoming more adept at using their chromebooks and we are starting to celebrate their learning more by capturing their work and putting it on their portfolios on Class Dojo.

Year 5 and 6

Following the amazing panto of the year - Aladdin Trouble - Year 5 and 6 have continued to show exceptional teamwork and collaboration as a community of learners as we plough into our new topic; helping each other with new learning and ideas, e.g. arithmetic strategies. Moreover, the Year 6s have been amazing role models throughout the Autumn Term for the whole school with their **inspiring volunteering** to be Playground Leaders with games and skills. Looking ahead, we are looking forward to the Year 6s mentoring the Year 5s with these important skills and creative ways to have fun and to feel safe at lunchtime, so that we can share the responsibility and empower us with our oracy skills and having fun.



Digital and Innovation

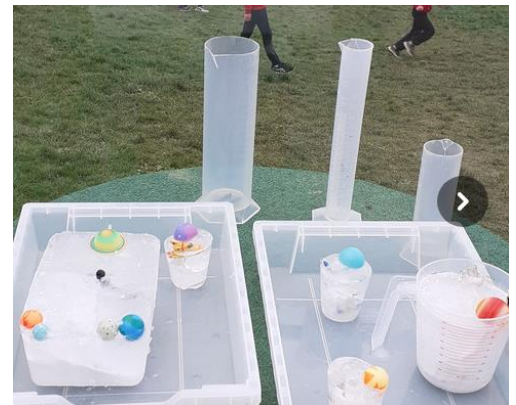
Reception, year 1 and 2

Reception class had to be innovative critical thinkers this week, in their Ice Rescue Mission. Figuring out how to best release planets from their frozen prisons!



In our science sessions, we have been investigators! Year one asking the question, 'which habitat to woodlice prefer? And year 2 exploring, 'What plants need to grow?'

Innovation skills have also been developing in KS1 as they have been innovating on their class texts, planning and writing their own versions of journey stories. Including some extremely creative characters, settings and events!



Year 3 and 4

Years 3 and 4 have been using their chromebooks to great effect so far this term. They have been doing independent research for their non-chronological reports and using them in support of their times table learning. Thanks to the PTFA, the children now have access to Times Tables Rockstars and there is already a week-long battle in play between Years 3 and 4!

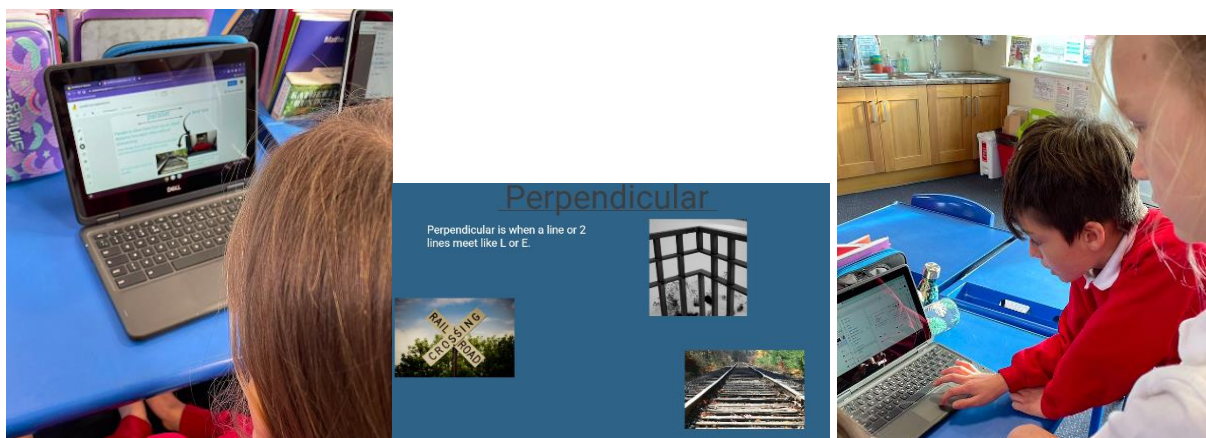
In computing, the children have also been learning how to use Pixlr, which is an online software that allows them to create and alter any number of digital images, similar to photoshop. Year 4 have even practised making animated

GIFs, that show a volcano exploding. On top of this, the children have also been learning the basics of programming, using Logo as a starting point, creating and debugging their programmes.



Year 5 and 6

This term, we've started to develop our use of Google Classroom to organise our documents and desktop publishing. Plus, with Mr Hookes we've started designing our own allotments on the *vegplot.com* app, using our knowledge of seasonality and types of fruits and vegetables learnt in our topic lessons. Excitingly, we've been using Class Dojo to document our personal learning journey in and out of school with our portfolios. "I love this task, because I can reflect on my learning that I've done this week," shared a child in Year 6. Also, we've been practising our Geography skills with our 'Where in the world?' tasks, so that we become **inspiring researchers**. Finally, another example of using our Chromebooks, was creating Jamboards (Google Suite) to create presentations and posters about our learning in maths - what is parallel and perpendicular?



COVID update

As you are aware, we have had a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst staff and children since the start of term. We are closely monitoring the situation and have worked hard to keep the school running as normal as much as possible. We will continue to do our very best to ensure we remain open to ensure your children's education is not interrupted.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Kind Regards,

G. Holmes

Mrs Gail Holmes - Executive Headteacher - Woolacombe School

Safeguarding Updates



SAFEGUARDING
at Woolacombe School

If you don't feel safe, or are worried about someone else, our Safeguarding Team is here to help. Come and find us at any time!

 
Gail Holmes
Safeguarding Lead

  
Naomi Overney
Deputy Safeguarding Lead Ben Hookes
Safeguarding Officer Verity Lewin
Safeguarding Officer

Alumnis
Multi-Academy Trust

Member of staff or a visitor to school?

If you have concerns about the needs or welfare of a pupil, please don't hesitate to speak to one of us. We all share a responsibility for our pupils safety and wellbeing.

Social Media

[Click here](#) to read information on how to **keep your children safe** using social media

Devices and Technology

[Click here](#) to read information on how to **keep your children safe** using devices and technology

Family Support

Click [here](#) for information about **Family Support** from Devon County Council.