

Wychwood (C.E.) Primary School Celebration Week

We came up with so many ideas that the week was full of non-stop activities! David Gosling worked with two of our classes, in small groups, doing willow sculpture. They were taught how to weave the willow in and out of a basic frame, adding antlers and legs to a deer and wings, tail and feet to an owl.

Willow Butterflies

Alison Cockroft also worked with willow with Miss Chappell's and Miss Halfpenny's classes, but this time the willow was bent and sellotaped together to form two enormous butterflies and some leaves. Part of the areas were filled with a fine paper which was then coloured and we have managed to suspend one from the classroom ceiling as it is about 12 feet across! She also worked with Mrs Hall's class with metal bits and bobs, wire, black paper and clear cellophane to make 'bugs'. These were all so different and made a wonderful display.

Sculptor Steve Empson visited the Foundation Stage making 'head sculptures'. He sat and talked to the children about the structure of a face and had pictures of Indian faces with their face paints on, beards and moustaches. The children were provided with a variety of resources to make their faces on small round logs. Sean and Danni from Poetry Slam Workshop came and worked with our Key Stage 2 classes for the day. The children were divided into

groups to work on rhyming and word links and then produced poetry in a 'rap' style. They came together at the end of the day to perform their poems to each other.

Burford School Music Department came along and worked with our Year 6 children teaching some Gamalan Music, which they performed along with the secondary school children at Burford School's Festival on the Field

on 20th July. Burford School Food Tech department also took part in our week by inviting Mrs Dawe's class along to make sandwiches, cakes and fresh lemonade to bring back for afternoon tea. The food was so good there was not much left for staff and visitors! But it gave the children a taste of a lesson at the secondary school.

Music, Line Dancing and Mud!

Lionel Sainsbury, a local pianist and composer, joined us for our Wednesday morning assembly. He talked about his life as a composer, apparently composing his first piece of music at the age of eight; he finished by playing a selection of his music. Year 2 upwards took part in line dancing with Diane Sykes. They all did very well; I think some of the staff found it more difficult!

Jane Beeching visited us twice. Firstly to do some gardening with the Year 5

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children who had asked for the chance to tidy our Millennium garden that really had become overgrown. They were taught safety issues in using gardening tools and about the different kinds of plants in the garden. They used reference books to identify the many creatures we found in amongst the plants. Later in the week, Jane came to work with the Key Stage 1 children doing 'mud painting'. Using different soils, clay and plants they were shown how to grind them down with a little water to make 'paint' and the children produced some wonderful snail pictures.

And So Much More!

This is really just a small selection from the week; we also had visits from local artist Karen Lord doing some still life painting using acrylics. Local Authority Art Advisor, Arthur Penn, worked with Mrs Hall's class doing printing and our Year 1 children visited Hill End on a 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' where they took part in a number of science based activities. Other activities that were organised by the staff included: a Science Café, personalised weaving, cooking cakes to sell at a cake stall, Graffiti Art, totem poles, extended pictures and so much more.

We finished the week on Friday afternoon with a 'roving assembly'. Each class arranged their work and we all took a tour of the school looking at what others had been doing. We finished by coming together in the hall to celebrate the week with a song and a prayer. Although not happening in the week

itself our Year 5 children also took part in producing some artwork for the Wychwood Project. Local artists Sally Hawkins and Tom Ralphs-Laman worked with the children to produce 6 enormous pictures of wildlife in their environment. These are being put together as part of a 'Wychwood Tapestry', which is being displayed at the Wychwood Forest Fair in September.

Such Generous Sponsorship

All of the above worked out to be very expensive. We had some funding from a Local Authority Curriculum Network Grant and the School Council raised £204.36 from a book sale and non-uniform day. But we still had a shortfall

and we would like to take this opportunity to thank local businesses who sponsored our event with donations: Milena Windows, R J Bradley's Garage, Wychwood Windows, K James General Builder, Furniture to Go, Houses,

Horses, Hounds, The Shaven Crown, A Hemming Carpenter, Milton Service Station, A Prew, Flix in the Stix, St Michaels Stores, F W P Matthews, Miltek, Windrush Valley Joinery, Dyakowski Gafford Solicitors and Wychwoods Estate Agents.

That Was the Week That Was!

Writing this does not do the week justice. If you have a chance please visit our school website <http://wychwood-pri.oxon.digitalbrain.com> to see pictures of the activities, or look out for our booklet of the week available from the school and local outlets.

Julie Hemming

