

Maple Class

Term 4-Spring- 2018



IPC Theme- Flowers and Insects!



We have had an awesome forth term here in Maple Class! We combined the topics 'Green Fingers' and 'Flowers and Insects' during which we have been learning how to grow and look after plants both in the classroom and outdoors to decorate our school grounds. We learned about ensuring our plants have enough sunlight, food and water. We explored ideas about plants that give us food to eat, clean air to breathe and materials to build our houses and furniture. We learned that flowers and insects need each other. Without insects there would be no flowers. And without flowers insects would go hungry! We explored how insects such as Bees and Ants work as a team to achieve goals that would be impossible alone! Using these ideas we have been working as a class team to contribute towards the Big School Project to build a house with materials from the forest!



Communication, Language and Literacy

Maple Class works in 3 groups (Squirrel, Rabbits and Hedgehogs) for Literacy and Phonics to ensure each child is working on activities to help them progress at their appropriate level; Squirrels can read and write CVC words, this term they have been working on Group 6, which includes some digraphs as well as continuing learning tricky words that can not be sounded out; the, we, what. They have made great progress and are growing confident in distinguishing the differences in the sounds sh, th and ch. Rabbits were introduced to group 4 sounds and started to identify digraphs to support sound blending and have begun reading longer words. Hedgehogs have been working on group 1-3 sounds, and have begun blending sounds for CVC words. All groups have enjoyed playing games such as word/ picture matching memory game, I spy and practicing the Jolly Phonics songs for each sound. In the classroom and in the forest the children are challenged to find something that starts with the letter written on the board or on the ground to support letter and sound recognition. The children have also enjoyed using sticks to write in the mud to explore letter formation!

This term as part of our 'Green Fingers' topic we have been creating labels and signs for our plants and garden areas. We have learned scientific words and enjoyed labelling diagrams of plants and insects to increase vocabulary based around our themes.

Also this term we have enjoyed reading stories around our topic including 'How Bees Be', 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Tin Forest' The children really enjoyed story boarding which supported their ideas of cycles in the plant and insects worlds!



Mathematical Development.

During Numeracy this term we have continued to build on our number skills including counting, addition and subtraction.

As part of our 'Flowers and Insects' topic this term we have been exploring data collection using tally charts. We recorded the insect we saw in the school grounds, the orchard, the field and the forest. We used this data to create bar charts and we discussed which areas were more attractive to different Insects such as bees, ladybirds, butterflies, ants and worms.

We looked at symmetry, colour and pattern in insects and flowers and explored creating our own mirror image sets of wings and repeat patterns using stripes or spots! We explored the shapes in the natural world. We focused on the hexagon shape in a Bee Hive, the children created the six side hexagon in various materials including drawing them using a ruler, lollypop sticks and kapla. We explored how they could fit the shape together to create patterns and structures just like Bees! We also used the large branches from the felled trees to make large Hexagons in the forest to create a base for a Bee game where the children had to work as a team to collect the pollen and bring it back to the hive.

We developed our knowledge of units of measurement; mm and cm, as we tracked the growth of our plants. We also used our skills in the Big Project to build a house as the children used rulers to measure and mark out the wood that needed to be cut to size to make the frame for our wall. We have continued to explore measuring, sharing and quantities in our weekly cooking activity where we bake something for the whole school.





Expressive Arts and Design

This term Maple Class have been exploring representations of flowers and insects in art. We explored the many mediums artists like Van Gogh, Monet and Georgia O'Keeffe use including, pencil, watercolour, ink and oil paint. We researched our home countries national flowers and the children selected which medium they wanted to use to create their own pictures. We used found off cuts of wood in the forest, from the felled trees, to inspire some 3D art pieces too! We learned about the huge structures made from plants and flowers in Dubai Miracle Garden and explored sculptures of insects and plants made from everyday junk. The children decided that for the end of term show they wanted to create a part play/ part puppet show and have used the styles and techniques from their research to create a set, costumes and puppets.



Science and Nature

This term we have had lots of fun exploring the natural world around us. We found out all about where flowers and insects prefer to live and grow! We learned what plants need in order to grow and about their different parts. We set up an experiment to discover how plants use water using coloured water and we were amazed at how quickly the colour of the petals changed! We tapped a birch tree to collect the sap and talked about how the tree sucks the water and nutrients up from the ground using its roots! We enjoyed planting and growing lots of different things including flowers and herbs. We used the left over tomato slices from our cooking activity to grow a new tomato plant and we even planted the head of a pineapple to grow a brand new pineapple plant! We used the magnifying glass and microscope to take a closer look at a leaf skeleton and different parts of insects such as their wings and feet. We learned about the life cycles of insects such as butterflies and bees and we discovered why plants and insects need each other!



Physical Exploration

In our weekly sports session we have continued to enjoy cycling through the forest! We are so proud of several of the Maples who have learned to use pedal bikes this term!

We have really explored our physical skills in climbing trees, reaching the higher branches! We have been exploring balance on the large logs from the felled trees by walking forwards and backwards on them as well as working out how to safely pass each other on them. We have practiced balance yoga on the beams in the forest to build our core strength and develop our gross motor coordination.

We have also used our strength to carry large pieces of wood and branches from the forest to school for the big house project.

In the Classroom we have been working on our hand eye coordination during our cooking activities; carefully using the knife to slice tomato for pizza and measuring/ pouring to make fruit jelly.

We have continued to work hard in Capoeira, perfecting our moves and learning the rhythms to perform with the Macalele. The Teacher is very proud of us.





Well Done Maple Class!!

