

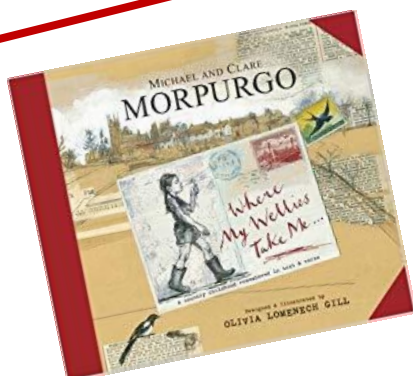
Earth Works

This half term is speeding along - we are half way to Christmas already! Here are some of Earth Works' learning highlights from the last few weeks, starting with our *Where My Wellies Take Me* project.

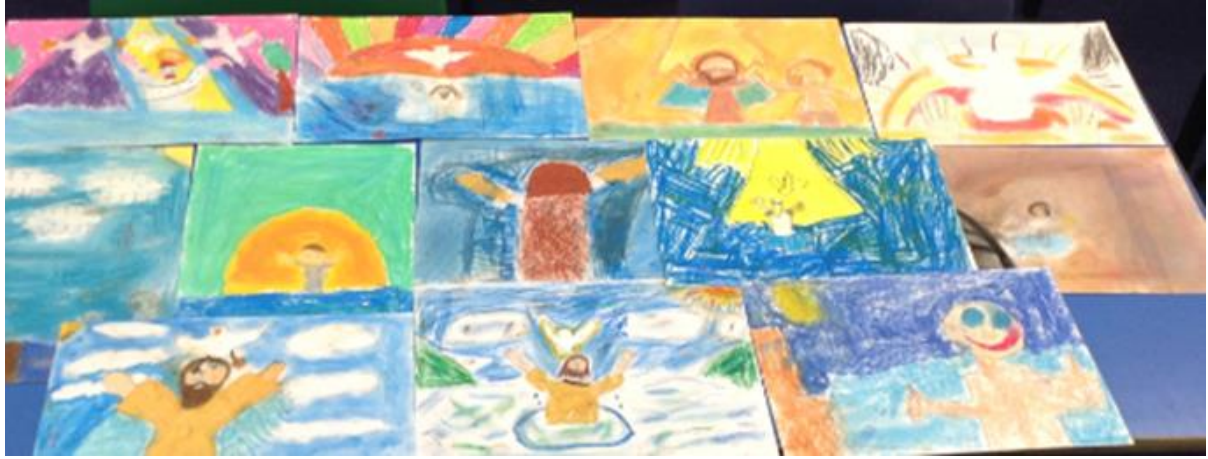
Inspired by the book by Clare and Michael Morpurgo, and local illustrator Olivia Lomenech Gill, we set off to explore Ellingham's surroundings to provide ideas for our poetry and art work. Unfortunately, the arrival of some lively cows in the field behind school the day before our walk meant that the minibus, rather than our wellies, had to take us down to the church. However, once we were there, we spent a lovely morning in glorious Autumn sunshine, exploring the churchyard and its surrounding woodland.

We used our senses to observe the natural environment and recorded our observations in notes and sketches. These have inspired the poems and illustrations we are producing for our *Where My Wellies Take Me* class poetry book, including list poems, haiku, free verse and acrostic poetry.

The beautifully illustrated poetry book *The Lost Words* has also helped to make our unit on nature poetry really special. Our work will culminate in a class performance of some 'spells' from this text, along with the children's own compositions, in whole school worship on Friday.



In RE, we have enjoyed looking at different representations of Jesus' baptism. We explored a range of different photographs, paintings and texts. From each picture, we made links to the Trinity and discussed the importance of the heavens opening, the dove and the voice of God. The children then produced their own interpretations using pastels.

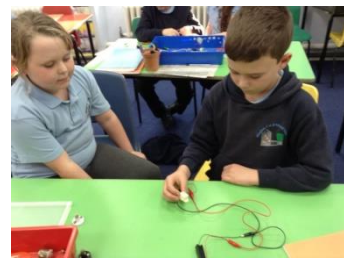


Our Learning

Here are just a few of the other things we have been doing recently in class:

- Using concrete resources such as place value counters, blocks, coins and dice, along with diagrams, to help our understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Developing our drumming skills - we can now play three separate rhythms together at once - and sometimes manage to stay in time!
- Building simple circuits and drawing circuit diagrams in science. We have also been discussing the potential dangers of electricity, and exploring how much energy different household appliances use, to help us be more energy efficient.
- Writing sentences about journeys in French: 'Je vais en vacances en vélo; Tu vas à Paris en avion.'
- Sharing and discussing the fantastic Viking houses and poems we created for homework tasks.

Coming up...writing recounts; the Viking invasion of Lindisfarne; Christmas crafts (save a margarine/butter tub for us to make a special table decoration in the last week of term); the carol concert; more drumming and gymnastics; more learning, discovery and fun!



Helping at Home

As always, you can help your child's learning at home through:

- Regularly reading with them and sharing or talking about books and magazines together.
- Helping them to learn their spellings and times tables. Spellings and tables facts need repeated practise, so although we spend time on them in class, most children will need extra help at home to succeed in their weekly assessments.
- Encouraging your child to complete their homework and lending a hand if they find it tricky.

All home support is much appreciated and pays dividends in helping to move your child's learning forward. Thank You.