

KIDZART

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

SPRING IS HERE AND WE ARE TOO SO LET'S GET BUSY



YEAR 3 CHILDREN FROM CRINDAU PRIMARY TAKING A BREAK IN THE FIELD

KIDZART is a registered charity dedicated to providing FREE creative days for primary school children from under-resourced areas in Monmouthshire and neighbouring counties, where their access to the creative arts is limited, and to giving them the chance to experience the potential offered by these subjects. Once imagination is sparked, free-thinking and problem-solving and confidence can follow. Working in small groups with our skilled staff and volunteers, the children also learn the value of kindness and generosity to each other.

We have had some wonderful days here at Kidzart since Christmas working with inner-city Newport Primary Schools, creating opportunities for the children to shine and gain confidence. Even after just one visit it is evident that the children are benefiting and are starting to think about ways to solve problems through expressive arts. Children from Crindau School Years 6, 5.4 and 3 visited and there was a second visit from the Ringland year 4 group.

We are building memories all about doing things and what sticks in children's memories is when they find things exciting. The children go back to their schools buzzing from the experience: they have been on an amazing adventure on a small bus which was just for them, making them feel very special.

WELHAM KIDZART FOUNDATION

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Charity Number 1195210

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NP25 4TW

Our first children visiting in January at the start of the Spring Term were from **Year 6 (10-11year-olds)** at Crindau Primary School in the centre of Newport and it was a joy for us all to meet them.

Our Art Teacher Yvonne says, "Year 6 really impressed us with their amazing masks that they made and their lovely, polite behaviour, they were extremely mature and very creative."

Kathy, our teaching assistant added, "It is lovely to see the look of 'awe and wonder' when the children first arrive at the Arts Centre and to see how engrossed they become in the art activities."



MAKING MASKS IN THE MORNING AND MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON YR 6 CRINDAU

The morning of art was followed by a lunch and then a walk around the village including visiting the lovely parish church with its fascinating graveyard and many artefacts. Then it was back to the Centre for an afternoon of music.

QUOTES FROM THE YEAR 6 CHILDREN:

'I LIKED ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES' — GETHIN

'I ATE A LOT AND WAS DOING ALL OF THE THINGS I ENJOY, LIKE DRAWING' — ANNA

'MUSIC WAS FUN AND EXCITING' — JACOB

'I LOVED THE BUILDING AND IT WAS GREAT TO DO THE THINGS I LOVE' - EBONY



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Year 5(9-10year-olds) Children from Crindau visited us for their day on 4 February and after enjoying a hearty breakfast listened intently to Yvonne as she explained what they would be doing.

"Year 5 mastered using a dip pen and ink in their session (not an easy task) and produced exquisite little sea horse illustrations using their new skills. The concentration in the room was palpable, you really could hear a pin drop! "(Yvonne)



Comments from Year 5 Children:

"We did lots of different things, it was good" Jordyn

"I liked the music; I don't really get to do it much" Kate

"It was a really creative day, and it made us think more" Olivia

"I really enjoyed the clay sculping it was really fun" Maggie

"I liked meeting the friendly dog" Vindi

"I enjoyed it all" Adaeze

"I enjoyed the clay. It was my second go in my life" Austin



After lunch Lesley, our music teacher, shares an afternoon of music with the children.

"The pupils are enthusiastic and engaged fully in all activities on offer! This year we have seen the addition of some glockenspiels, which have really enhanced the sessions. The children have been so excited to use them and it has taken the music sessions to another level."(Lesley)

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18 February was a bright sunny day for the second visit for **Year 4(8-9 year-olds) children from Ringland School**

As Becci, our Kidzart Administrator said, *"It was great to welcome back Ringland who, attending for the second time, knew what to expect and jumped right in."*

Yvonne had a very exciting project for them. *"As it was year 4, Ringland School's second visit to us, they were very settled and felt at home very quickly, first tucking into the healthy breakfast before they start the morning's art session. We then had a very exciting morning making four wonderful dragon sculptures, working in teams of 3 or 4 children with an adult helper, followed by making our own dragons from clay. Two of the children must have guessed the mornings theme as they each had a toy dragon in their pocket."* (Yvonne)



It was a great joy to see the children working together in teams to achieve such amazing results with the painted dragon sculptures.

Their individual dragons in clay are so imaginative and the children are learning so much about their potential skills'

In the afternoon they also work together under Lesley's expert tuition to make music which is wonderful to them and for us.



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4 MARCH – CRINDAU YEAR 4 (8-9 YEAR-OLDS)



Year 4, Crindau made colourful collage suns followed by wonderful clay suns to hang up on the wall. (Yvonne)

We were very pleased to welcome with this group the headteacher who said afterwards, "I can feel the commitment to Kidzart from everyone I have communicated with or met on the day. What I witnessed on the day, from our children is heart-warming. Their excitement levels were on the roof when they were selected to be part of the group invited to go to the Art Centre especially hearing about the great time the previous groups had had. The hospitality, passion and expertise of everyone involved was truly inspiring. My children invested their heart and soul into the art they produced and are desperate to bring it back to school to share it with their friends and families. Their investment in their own art only came through because of the investment from the whole team there on the day.



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18 MARCH – CRINDAU YEAR 3 (7-8 YEAR-OLDS)

Our mornings are for the visual arts. *"With year 3, we looked at 3 artists, whose work focused on words, letters and numbers, Paul Klee, 'Once emerged from the grey of night', Jasper Johns, 'Numbers in Colour' and the work of Bob & Roberta Smith. The children made their own version, putting the letters of their own name into a grid in their own style, with plenty of colour and pattern. This is then linked to a tile with their first initial and again with lots of pattern, that was then translated into a final clay project, a patterned tile with a patterned initial as relief on top."* (Yvonne) The children were so engrossed as Kathy our TA noted: *"You could hear a pin drop when Year 3 were creating their own artwork inspired by Paul Klee and other abstract artists."*



"The afternoon usually starts with clapping games, then moving onto basic rhythm work using claves, where the children copy back rhythms, and have a chance to write their own on a simple grid. They get to play these to each other and then to an upbeat backing

track. We still use the boom whackers we purchased last year, and these add a different dimension to the rhythm work. In the second half of the afternoon, we move onto the glockenspiels, where after a simple blues piece we play tunes made up of D & E again using fun backing tracks. The children really enjoy this and are always amazed that they can create music and play tunes successfully."

What is so rewarding as the music teacher is to see the children progressing during the afternoon from clapping simple rhythms, to being able to transfer that skill onto the glockenspiels. The children are totally engaged in the afternoon, and we can see their confidence growing as the afternoon progresses. There is a real buzz in the room, and they always seem sad to leave at the end – wishing they could do some more!" (Lesley Music Teacher)

THE CENTRE REALLY COMES ALIVE ON KIDZART DAYS, WHICH IS WHAT THIS CHARITY IS ALL ABOUT. FROM MY LITTLE OFFICE, I CAN HEAR THE EXCITEMENT FROM ALL THE CHILDREN AND THE MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON IS A LOVELY BACKING TRACK TO THE NORMAL SOUNDS OF MY COMPUTER KEYBOARD. THANKS TO ALL THE KIDS INVOLVED THIS TERM, AND TO THEIR WONDERFUL HARD-WORKING TEACHERS – THEY HAVE ALL BEEN A JOY TO WORK WITH. (BECCI KIDZART ADMINISTRATOR)



<BEATING THE RHYTHM USING THE CHAIRS AS DRUMS AFTER THE CLAPPING AND THEN THE BOOM WHACKERS AND SO TO THE GLOCKENSPIELS MAKING MUSIC>

<FROM RHYTHM TO GLOCKENSPIEL>



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SNACK TABLE FOR HAPPY FEASTERS

A buffet of melon, pineapple, cheese, cucumber, oranges, apples, bananas, bread rolls, flapjacks and yoghurts. We have healthy snacks available throughout the day and a hot lunch around 12.30pm all prepared by our wonderful housekeeper Tracy. Eating is such an important and memorable part of the day for the children-never running out of energy or enthusiasm and their love of learning.

I would like to thank all our wonderful staff and volunteers who help us so much and are so important to us. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved in any way or are considering becoming a member. We shall be pleased to hear from you. There are lots of details on our website www.kidzart.uk and please forward this newsletter to anyone you know who may be interested in our work. You can also now find us on Facebook at Kidzart Foundation so please, if you are on Facebook, become a follower.

Trustees have visited the two schools Ringland and Crindau which are included in this newsletter and have been welcomed by the headteachers who are so appreciative of the work we are doing to help them. We have had very good feedback from both and the letters are reproduced in full in the Chair's Report for our AGM scheduled for Tuesday 15 April 6.30pm for 7.00pm at Wye Valley Arts Centre. You should have received an invitation but if not please get in touch and do come.

From Ringland Primary School: *The Kidzart Project has been a huge support for us, here at Ringland Primary School. Upon hearing of the initiative, we couldn't wait to become involved. We recognise the impact of engagement in opportunities such as this on the children who have been taking part and their response has been incredibly enthusiastic. Their visits provide an opportunity for some escapism in an environment which they would otherwise be unlikely to explore. Travelling to the centre itself has been an adventure for many of the children, who can have limited opportunities otherwise.*

At the AGM there will be an exhibition of the work by the children over these last two terms, and collages of the work previously done in our pilot year. There will be refreshments and we are pleased to say there will be musical entertainment provided by Alan Bateman who is a celebrated jazz musician. We hope to see you there.

**BEST WISHES
FROM VAL WELHAM AND
ALL THE TEAM AT KIDZART**

'FROM IMAGINATION TO CREATIVITY'

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