

KIDZART

Spring Newsletter 2024

CREATIVITY IS GO!

OUR NEW WEBSITE WWW.KIDZART.UK IS TOO!

Kidzart Creative Days go from strength to strength and we are receiving very positive feedback from the children and the staff who accompany them.



A LUNCH-TIME BREAK IN OUR LOVELY FIELD OPPOSITE THE WYE VALLEY ARTS CENTRE LLANDOGO

Just to recap, our aim is to provide free creative days for primary school children from under-resourced areas where their access to the creative arts is limited and to give them the chance to experience the potential offered by these subjects. Once imagination is sparked, free-thinking and problem-solving 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.

WELHAM KIDZART FOUNDATION

T: 07796 697226

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Charity Number 1195210

**Registered Address
Wye Valley Arts Centre
Llandogo**

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NP25 4TW

Through the Spring term we have welcomed back all four of our year groups from the 3 inner-city Newport schools. Years 3 and 4 also had their third visit of the year to us in April during this current term.



BREAKFAST TIME



APPLE BLOSSOM TIME IN OUR ORCHARD

Of course, breakfast on arrival is incredibly popular, prepared by our wonderful housekeeper Georgina. Breakfast, lunch and snacks available throughout the day are much appreciated and generate a lot of energy to be expended throughout the day. After a hearty breakfast, the children become totally engrossed in the projects set by our Kidzart tutors. One of the Year 3 girls, on her second visit to us in January, said she was so excited about coming she couldn't sleep the night before. It is very rewarding to all of us at Kidzart to see how the children's love of learning is developing.



Our Art tutor Yvonne has commented that the strategy of having 2 art teachers works very well in a number of ways, the main one being that have been able to very effectively cover for each other when one of us has been ill and unable to teach. We work very closely and are a good supportive team, apart from being very good friends. This has ensured a seamless continuity in the classes delivered to the children. It is a definite benefit to the children to have 2 teachers with different teaching styles. The children are certainly settling in extremely well and now seem very comfortable with the structure of the art days. One of our hopes was that the children from the three schools would begin to integrate with each other. This is beginning to happen naturally although we have been trying to structure some of the more recent sessions to encourage this further, by putting them in mixed groups for certain art projects.

The children are growing in confidence in terms of their own artwork and concentrate so well, that apart from a gentle, contented hum throughout the room, at times you could quite literally hear a pin drop. I think it is us adults who are sometimes the noisy ones.

The other half of our morning dynamic duo, Maz explains: the art and clay sessions in the mornings are linked together. In the Spring Term the children explored the natural world with its wondrous patterns, colour and textures. With the clay sessions, the children have been expanding their technical abilities with hand-building, imprinting textures, joining together additional pieces and moulding around, in or over a form.

Over the sessions and repeat visits we have definitely seen the children open up in terms of confidence and willingness to experiment within their work. Mixing together with the other school groups is encouraged within the sessions.



Our inspirational music teacher Lesley takes charge in the afternoons and these sessions have been very exciting and similarly we have seen the confidence in the pupils growing. Lesley says *'The Music afternoons have been very exciting and have seen the confidence in the pupils growing. From the first session -where we played lots of rhythms to various backing tracks, singing and rapping, with the introduction of Boomwackers - to the latest session where we created a mini production of the book "The Enormous Turnip" with groups either being the actors, musicians and one special person being the Turnip! The pupils were all a bit tentative to start with but gradually as their confidence grew, they all joined in and had lots of fun. The special bits are when pupils who don't want to join in at the start of the session are seen coming back into the group and joining in. It doesn't matter how small a part they play in the session as long as they eventually do so. The boomwackers seem to be a great hit and the pupils have fun working out tunes on them such as 'Baa Baa Blacksheep' and 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'. They are performing to each other and the adults in the room with ease and confidence. A great result for all concerned!'*

We held our AGM at the end of March and the first display of the children's artwork from the Autumn term and half of the Spring Term was well received.

Val had also made a photo montage board incorporating images from the previous 6 creative days.



A visitor from Cardiff Met Art School was very impressed and suggested we might like to put a display of the children's work in the foyer of the art school.

If you were unable to attend the AGM and would like a copy of the minutes please let us know. After the formal part of the AGM, Lesley outlined the plans for the Kidzart Fete to take place on Saturday 6 July (10am to 5pm) which coincides with the first day of our exhibition in the Wye Valley Arts Centre. At the meeting we are very pleased to report that one of our new members, Roger Tomlin, offered to sponsor Chepstow Male Voice Choir to perform for us in the afternoon. Lesley has also got other delights in hand.

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We were delighted to see the launch of our new website www.kidzart.uk and to be guided through the site by Charles Emes who has made such a great job of creating it. We are so grateful to him for his expertise and inspiration in achieving this.

We are now planning our first annual exhibition at the Wye Valley Arts Centre which will have a central piece showing the children's work completed through the year on our Kidzart Creative Days. The exhibition will be open to all. The tutors and adult students of Wye Valley Arts Centre will also be showing works some of which will be offered for sale and commission will be donated to the Charity. The exhibition runs from Saturday 6 July to Sunday 14 July and is open every day from 11am to 5pm. The first day Saturday 6 July will also be the day of the Kidzart Fete on the field opposite the Wye Valley Arts Centre in Llandogo.



We thank our wonderful teachers, staff and volunteers and all who helped to make these days so successful and worthwhile by inspiring the children and the accompanying staff to go back to their schools to share their creative experiences with others. We have two remaining Kidzart Creative days in this term; 11 June for Year 6 and 25 June for Year 5.

For the Autumn term, the dates are 10 September (Year 3), 1 October (Year 4), 12 November (Year 5) and 26 November (Year 6). Please get in touch if you would like to be involved. We shall be pleased to hear from you.

BEST WISHES FROM THE TEAM AT KIDZART
'FROM IMAGINATION TO CREATIVITY'

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