

## A Creative Journey in Visual Arts!



After a successful start, Kidzart creative days have gone from strength to strength. Since our last update, we have welcomed three further groups of children from inner city Newport primary schools through the doors of the Wye Valley Arts Centre and are very pleased to report that everything's running smoothly, and some magnificent artwork is taking shape!

*Years 4 - 6 discover their artistic talents through 'Pattern and Texture'*

As we approach the end of 2023, our term's topic 'Pattern & Texture' has come to a close. The children have completed their art bags and aprons and are set for the term ahead. Tutors Maz and Yvonne have delivered some enriching Arts sessions, carefully developing the complexity of activities with each year group. Art tutor Yvonne summed up the final session saying "The kids were great! I was so impressed by how the confidence of the Year 6 children developed. I had set quite a challenge for the group, and they rose to meet it."

Perhaps one of the most encouraging things for us has been witnessing the uniqueness of each child's designs, across fabric and clay, with them expressing themselves creatively and with individuality.

We'd like to give you a quick run-down of the last three visual arts sessions.

## Year 4

The Year 4s learnt about using positive and negative spaces, cutting out paper letters to create blank spaces in the shape of letters before introducing pattern around the shapes. They applied this knowledge to art bags, exploring contrast through use of light colours overprinted in darker shades. Stamps were utilised (stars, flowers etc.), along with sponge pads and brayer rollers and they had a free rein on colour. Later, they explored positive and negative images further in their clay work tiles.



## Year 4's Apple Adventures!

What better way to spend a lunch break on a beautiful Autumn afternoon than going on an apple-picking adventure! This is exactly what the Year 4 children did, busily picking apples from the many varieties of trees in our orchard, gathering extra to take back to their schools for other pupils. Hopefully a few pies and crumbles were rustled up that evening!

Fresh air, healthy food and perhaps even inspiration for a botanical art project!



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## Year 5 and 6

Year 5 children explored the idea of repeating patterns with a more limited colour palette and just 3 or 4 patterns. They printed in blocks onto their bags using a process similar to gelli printing. In their clay work they made a picture frame, again experimenting with repeating patterns.



The Year 6 children took a big step, making a press-printing plate, limited to one colour of their choice. They designed their own pattern on the plate which, when inked up and rotated, could create a connected and complete design on paper/fabric. In clay, they designed a large tile or door nameplate, cutting out letters and building up pattern. After scoring the clay surfaces, they learnt how to use slip and 'glued' their letters to the plate.

### Muddy Feet, Acorns, Leaves & Laughter!

The Year 6 children enjoyed a nature walk with botanical artist & tutor Debbie followed by a drawing session. The children accompanied Debbie and Val on a walk in our meadow where they collected leaves, fruit, twigs, lichen and other natural objects. Debbie aimed to ignite curiosity in the natural world and encourage the children to observe their surroundings commenting "I love imparting my knowledge of nature. If you spark this interest in children, they will remember and recognise nature on walks as they grow older." The walk was followed by a discussion about the items found, interlinking maths and art through identifying symmetry in the leaves. The key message which Debbie got across was that, often, you don't need complicated equipment to create breath-taking art; a pencil and a piece of paper is enough. That is exactly what the children used for their sketches and sometimes simplicity is the answer!



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## Year 6 Botanical Art



## We Will Rock You!

This term all children have been learning about rhythm using percussion instruments including shakers, wooden claves, blocks and guiros. These have helped them to develop rhythm and enjoy the fun of making different sounds like shaking, scraping and tapping. As per the visual arts sessions, tutors have planned lessons with songs and techniques chosen specifically for each age group. Younger years strummed ukuleles to songs like 'We're all going to the zoo tomorrow' and 'Baby Shark' whilst older children belted out classics like 'We Will Rock You', and 'Mamma Mia'. Children selected a percussion instrument of their choice and took turns trying out the Cajun drum which has proven to be a firm favourite.



***If anyone has a drum or other instruments to donate please let us know.***

There is nothing more important to young children than being able to express themselves and Kidzart is about fostering their imagination and giving the children confidence to do this.

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## What's New for 2024?

As 2023 comes to an end we are moving away from the theme of 'Pattern & Texture' in our visual arts programme. The children's art and clay projects will be diversifying but linked to the common theme of 'Animals' for the Spring term. There will be new and exciting developments to our music sessions too so watch this space!

Look out for our new website and Facebook page which will be up and running soon.

A big 'Thank you' to our wonderful teachers, staff and volunteers who all helped to make these days so successful and worthwhile by inspiring the children to go back to their schools to share their creative experiences with others. Breakfast, lunch and snacks throughout the day were much appreciated by all too, as a lot of energy was generated and expended!

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved. There are several ways to help - becoming a member, donating, via sponsorship or volunteering your time. By working together, we can have the greatest impact on these young lives. The key dates for Kidzart Days in the Spring and Summer terms 2024 are January 16th, February 6th, March 5th, March 19th, April 15th, April 29th, June 11<sup>th</sup> and July 2nd.

Thank you!



'FROM IMAGINATION TO CREATIVITY'

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE TEAM AT KIDZART

AND ALL THE VERY BEST FOR 2024!

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