

Art's week 2021 at Southwood Infant School **Our Climate Change Forest**

All the children at Southwood Infant school took part in Arts week at the end of May. The children really enjoyed the creativity of the week and feel empowered to be involved in the county-wide Art project 'Our Climate Change Forest'. The project is to help raise awareness about the climate crisis and giving the children a voice.

This term the children had already become so much more environmentally aware through the 'Going Green' topic in KS1, the reinstatement of our 'Green Team' in year 2, plus assemblies and class discussions throughout the school.

During Art's week the children developed their understanding of how art can be used to take action to speak out about important issues in the world, such as 'Totemy', which is the inspiration for our project. 'Totemy' is a giant sculpture in Poland, designed by Alicja Biala and Iwo Borkowicz, which also raises awareness of climate change. Each sculpture has a QR code, which passers-by can scan to find out the meaning behind each sculpture.

Having learnt about 'Totemy' the children finalised their class message about what they felt is the most pressing concerns and interests to them. They then began the journey of designing and creating their 'tree'/totem pole to raise awareness of their message. This gave the children an opportunity to create their very own art, giving the children a voice and power to take their own action to help save our planet. Their voice and sense of empowerment was of vital importance to us as a school to avoid anxiety about such a big important topic that affects us all. Read each class message to find out more.

There are over 40 schools across Hampshire involved in the project. As a school Southwood Infants created 6 "trees" to help form the climate change forest. The striking, colourful, bold forest will be installed in front of Winchester Cathedral and available to visit from 16th June to 4th July. After which point, we are hoping the installation will move onto Hillier Gardens. Just as in Poland there will be QR codes to allow the children's voice to be amplified and heard. The codes will be located on bunting flags, each tree with a matching flag to view the children's message behind it, hung on the railings in front of the forest.

The entire week the school was full of creative business. The children researched, made posters, banners, pickets, held mini-protests in the playground, sketched, experimented, made maquettes (or as the children coined them 'mini trees') and finally got to work to create their art piece! Once the trees were complete the children proudly displayed them to their grown-ups at home-time. Some of the children joined their trees in the playground with their pickets, experiencing their first protest with an audience! J The Lovely Ladybirds wrote to Boris Johnson to persuade him to help us save our planet. Some of the children even created a saving the planet dance. What a week!

Please visit 'Our Climate Change Forest' in Winchester to help support the children taking action and spread their important heart felt messages!

Southwood children's passionate voice:

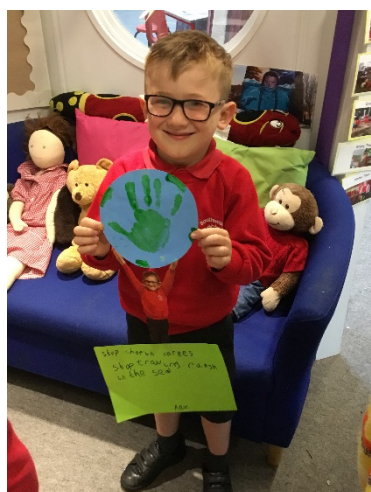
Each class have their own beliefs. There was, however, a unifying and recurring theme across the school about helping the animals. In particular the sea creatures and that there is far too much plastic and rubbish in the sea.

Reception children

Butterflies:

As a class the children decided they wanted to think about how we could keep our oceans safe from pollution like plastic bottles and plastic bags.

"Save our seas, don't put rubbish in the ocean put it in the bin"



Caterpillars:

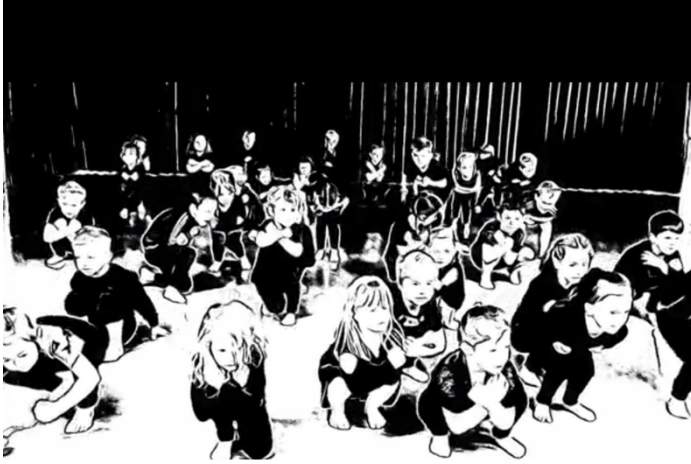
The caterpillars wanted saving the animals to be at the heart of their message to the people. They are passionate about 3 areas:

"Save the Koalas and sloths, don't cut down the trees"

Save the Zebras and tigers and all the endangered animals"

"Save our sea animals, don't put plastic in the sea"





Year 1 children

Dragonflies:

As a class the children decided they wanted to spread the message of too much plastic being in the oceans and seas.

“Save our seas”



Ladybirds:

The Ladybirds made a pledge to help do their bit and send a plea to the world to help also.

“We love our world and don’t want it to die. We will all do our part.

Remember plant trees don’t chop them down. Recycle your rubbish and don’t use plastic bottles. Let’s look after your lovely animals and our planet.

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Year 2 children

Fireflies:

The fireflies want to protect our Rainbow Rainforest and its endangered animals.

“Can you help us to save our rainbow rainforest and its endangered animals?
Please help us! Many endangered animals are losing their homes because of people and companies cutting down our rainforests for palm oil.

We want to inspire people to spread the message about deforestation and palm oil usage. When you shop, please don't use products that use palm oil – we want to send a message to companies and show that we do not want palm oil. We want our wildlife to have a home instead!

We chose to use vibrant, rainbow colours for our totem pole to catch people's attention and were inspired by the brightly coloured animals of the rainforests. We hope you enjoy our message and can help to save our rainbow rainforest”



Cricket's totem pole design rationale and message:

"We choose to make our class Totem Pole about saving the seas because we care about the future of our world.

We want to persuade people to stop throwing rubbish and plastic bottles in the seas and causing ocean animals to get trapped or die.

We need to look after ocean habitats like coral and sea kelp so that fish, seahorses, starfish, crustaceans and sharks can flourish, we included these in our designs because they are so important.

We thought about what other things we wanted to represent on our Totem Pole. We choose shark teeth because they are one of our favourite animals, a diver to show how humans can help keep the sea clean and Save Our Seas flags to bring attention to what we believe in."

