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Maths – hands on and outdoors!

As part of the wider DMAT project to bring maths learning to the outdoors, Mellis CE Primary has been busy taking advantage of learning opportunities in both our fields and wider environment. It has been fascinating to see the various opportunities teachers have taken to explore maths concepts in 'less conventional' circumstances, and the learning fun that the children have had!

This has taken lots of different forms, as can be seen by the photos below. In Reception, the children explored concepts of halving using the playground as an extended chalkboard.

Meanwhile, Year 1 and Year 2 have linked into the 'Inspiring Classrooms' Project, which is where learning (in this case maths!) takes place within the local church, in this case St Mary's in Mellis. This project looks to using the many different ways in which the church environment can be used to support learning in many different subjects – as can be seen below!

Year 3 and 4 have had their experience out of school and out on to Knettishall Heath, a local beauty spot. This has also had a collaborative edge, in so far that we were joined by other Year 3 and 4 pupils from other local schools. The Year 3s looked at radial shape patterns using natural resources as inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy; the contrasting textures, colours and shapes of locally 'scavenged' leaves, sticks, moss, stones etc resulted in some super artworks focussed on shape and pattern.


Year 4 – on the other hand – worked at their understanding of position and direction through orienteering. After groups sessions navigating around cones, the children were then in charge of using compasses and maps to find orienteering 'waypoints' around the forest of Knettishall Heath. It was rather wet, but nevertheless all managed to complete their task and return to basecamp – if a little damp!


Finally, Upper Key Stage 2 focussed their efforts on data. They took the focus of statistics and the class were given challenges to complete to collect data. They were then asked to think of some unique ways of presenting the data using objects and materials they could find outdoors – all as per the pics below!