



Take One Picture at Edmund Waller

The Courtyard of a House in Delft

Pieter de Hooch, 1658



We invite you into our exhibition spaces where we bring the courtyard scene from Delft to life. Pieter de Hooch carefully constructed this scene to make us feel as though we are in the courtyard too. And now we are! Duck under archways and weave in and out of paintings. Discover the different interpretations of the picture and find out what each year group chose to explore. We hope that you take as much pleasure from the artworks as the children did in creating them.



Nursery - Ocean Class

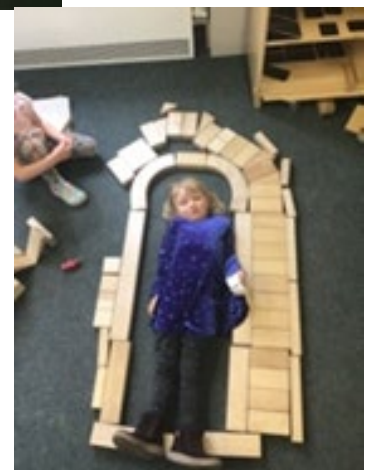
In Nursery we explored the painting in detail and looked closely at the people. We noticed their clothes and the children were interested in thinking about what the little girl might have been gathering in her apron. We made sketches based on our observations. We thought about arches and how they were flat at the bottom and curved around the top. We learnt how to cut out an arch and used this as a template for our printing activity with bricks. We mixed the colours of the bricks and used the word terracotta to describe the unique colour of the bricks.



We noticed that the plants in the pictures looked a little spikey, like the teasels in the nature zone so when we were at the Nature Zone we explored teasels to make little teasel hedgehogs.



Later on we explored arches in our block play. We noticed that we'd have to make the sides equal length and use the curved blocks to shape the top of the arch. We made arches that were so large we were able to fit inside them.





Reception - Woodland and Forest Classes

In Reception we listened to the soundscape of the painting and could hear children playing. This led us to think about games that we enjoy playing, like building dens.



We made dens in the nature zone and explored different ways of constructing them.



We noticed the repeating patterns around the archway and the window in de Hooch's painting and learnt how to create repeating patterns using a variety of materials.

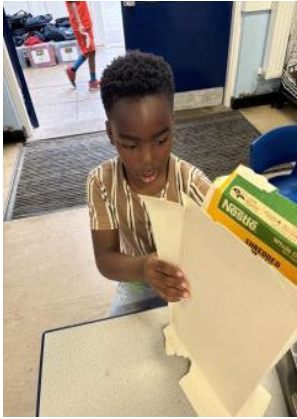


For our final piece we created our own den inspired by the painting. We also shared stories about dens we have built which you will be able to listen to in the exhibition.





Year 1 – Rainforest and Jungle



Initially children were intrigued by the archway and brickwork in De Hooch's painting and so our starting point was looking at the architecture of Dutch houses. Children explored building houses out of junk modelling and added Mod Roc to strengthen them. Inspired by photographs of Dutch buildings, children then mixed paint colours to create texture on the building and added detail to their houses with porches and windows.



Using their understanding of mixed media art, children created pictures of archways and explored drawing people with pencil. Through independent exploration of the painting, children were interested in knowing if there were any other characters in the painting that we could not see. They thought about animals that we might see in a city, and children decided to sew mice, draw cats, paint fish and create mouse houses.





Year 2 – Lake and River

In Year 2, we looked closely at the Peter De Hooch painting and thought about what it might look like if you went through the arch. We then studied pictures of streets in Holland.



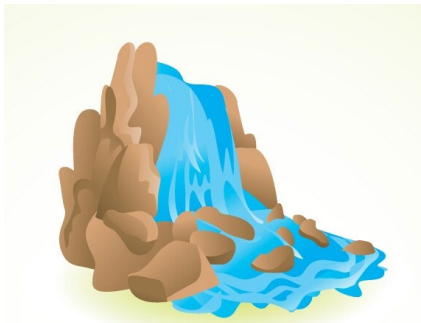
The children worked in groups of three to create imaginative building facades- we used artistic licence to create a world beyond the painting.

To begin, each group decided on the window, door and roof shapes and the background colour. There was some negotiation as the children in the groups didn't always have the same opinion. However, we were impressed with their compromising skills and the way they respected each other's choices.

The groups then worked collectively to decorate the facades. We talked about pattern and how to use colours that contrasted to make a bold effect. To finish of the project, we created a large arch to complete the street.



Waterfall Class



Alongside our work in our mainstream classes, we have enjoyed exploring Pieter de Hooch's 'The Courtyard of a House in Delft' in a range of media. We started by identifying the key features in the picture and exploring the geographical location of Delft in the Netherlands.



We explored printing with wooden blocks and sponges, focussing on the arch and brickwork. After this, we created our own houses with junk modelling, adding windows and doors and adding our favourite cut outs from the painting. The children also enjoyed tracing key lines from the picture with whiteboard pens and then adding watercolour on top.



Year 3 Meadow and Stream



To begin their project, the children in Meadow and Stream classes explored the picture and were most interested in the arch and what lies beyond. This inspired them to design doors of their own with hidden lands behind them accompanied by creative writing to describe the places they had drawn. The children then used the collage skills they had developed in the Autumn term to create arches from recycled cardboard and magazines.



After looking carefully at the painting (and others by the same artist) the children used water-colour paint to carefully mix colours to match those that they could see. They went on to use these in their own interpretations of the painting.



One of year 3's favourite activities focused on the characters in the pictures and their roles. They thought about what they might be thinking or feeling and chose to write in the first person to tell their story. The children also drew and painted other people who may have been at the house but not visible in the picture.





Year 4—Savannah and Prairie

In Year 4, we worked with clay to create a Delft inspired 3D house, similar to those quintessential homes you might see in the Netherlands.



We used both pinching and coiling techniques to construct the houses and then used a clay tool to carve the windows. When bone dry, they were then bisque fired to 1000°C. As you will see from Savannah's work, the clay has changed colour and hardened. The next stage of the process is to apply traditional white and blue glazes and glaze fire them to 1200°C, which completes the process, as Prairie's work demonstrates.





Year 5 – Coral and Estuary



Year 5 have explored the question ‘Where does colour come from?’ through understanding the process of creating natural dye, using food items. They have also used the Japanese method of hapazome, which involves printing plants and flowers on to fabric. We have considered different traditional dyeing methods from around the world. The children have also examined Valerie Bloom’s poem ‘Autumn Gilt’ and created their own poems inspired by colour.



What can you use to make a natural pink dye?

- Roses
- Lavender
- Beetroot/beets
- Avocado seed



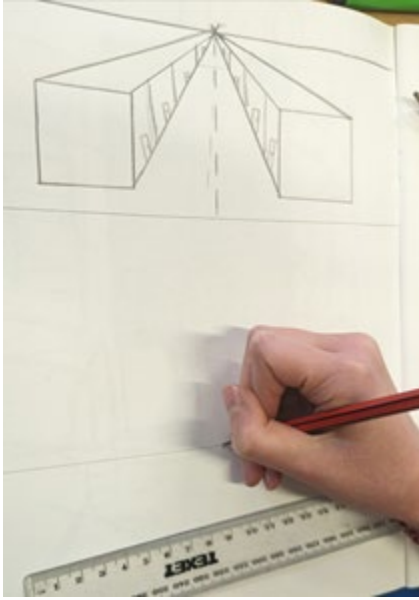


Year 6 – Desert and Tundra

Firstly, we looked at the effect of perspective in the painting (and other paintings from the Dutch Golden Age) and drew some images using perspective ourselves.



Then we explored the Dutch architecture of the time, and studied their windows, doors, brickwork and narrow houses.



Everyone practiced drawing a landscape with perspective before also making a surrealist collage landscape.



Finally, we cut out, painted and built our Dutch street façade with windows that opened up to a range of different views.



After that, we split into groups to create our installation – a street of Dutch houses, with windows that open to a variety of landscapes (as well as space-scapes and hell-scapes).

