Design Technology: The Wray Common Way!

At Wray Common, we foster a problem solving culture throughout the curriculum, which includes our design technology lessons. We often start by introducing them to different skills and techniques. Our DT projects often link to our English topics, as well as the curriculum driver for a given half term. We do this by inspiring our children through making products designed to a criteria by encouraging them to design, produce and reflect on their final pieces. Our design technology curriculum includes cooking, with produce we have grown in the allotments. This happens in Years 2, 3 and 5, as well as Gardening Club.

In Years 1 and 2, children begin to make simple decisions about their design such as the design of a boat in their Pirate topic. They start to explore and decide how to fix materials together. From this early stage, they are encouraged to look at their design throughout the making process and select different materials for their purpose. We prompt children to start problem solving while they are making their product so they reach their desired outcome. Evaluating is a key part of the process and children start to evaluate their and other's pieces.

During Year 3 and 4, children continue to use knowledge of the product they are designing to independently design their product with a specific criteria in mind. They are encouraged to talk about their personal opinions about existing products to inform their own designs. Children are expected to make a more realistic and detailed plan to produce their product and choose more appropriate materials to produce the desired effect. When reflecting, we encourage children to share their successes and improvements based on the desired purpose and product's criteria.

In Year 5 and 6, children are encouraged to envision a particular consumer in mind as well as a criteria to create a detailed design. When making their product, children are expected to be productive when modifying during the making process to produce an effective product. When evaluating, children should be able to explain any modifications they have made during their making process and their problem solving process.

Throughout their time at Wray Common, children have the opportunity to design and produce meaningful products through their curriculum topics. Children have experienced designing and producing products through our Summer 2 topic extravaganza such as through making products out of recycled materials to make other purposes from already used products. From this process, children are taught the importance of designing products to be used in the world of business and consumerism.