The linocut project was one of the first activities we did in Art and the Environment class. We started by looking outside in Chigwell Close for interesting natural forms that caught our eye: small berries, leaves, different angles of sticks and flowers. After getting reference photos of plants and other interesting organic scenes, we returned to the classroom to trace the images on tracing paper and figure out what we wanted to print. Linocut blocks are used to create a stamp by carving out areas and lines to make negative space.We stamped our designs onto different colored paper, canvas, and even postcards! We also layered oil pastels and gouache paints onto the print to add color and texture. The project allowed us to make one simple design into many different and unique pieces, which were exciting to compare and see side by side. We were also able to bring our observations of nature to life through this project, as we had the opportunity to depict the plants and animals we saw in several different ways. The linocut prints were a great starting point for the class, as we saw how illustrations and portrayals of nature can range from detailed and realistic to imaginative and abstract. -Zady Hasse