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NEWSLETTER: Friday 17th May 2024

Dear Parents

It has been a very busy couple of weeks at school. I want to start with how proud all the school staff are of our Year 6 children who have completed their SATs tests this week. They have worked so hard and should be very pleased with themselves. Their work ethic has been amazing, and I am sure they are ready to begin their next steps towards secondary school. Well, done!

In other good news, we have a new school SENCo, Mrs Davids, who started this week. I know she has had a great first day and has already begun getting to know the children and parents. She will be in school on Thursdays so please stop and say hello on a Thursday morning when you see her. I know you will all make her feel very welcome.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Jarvis

Oak Class

Over the last two weeks Oak class have been learning about the properties of 2D shapes. Not only have we learnt the names of a lot of shapes and how many corners or edges they have, but we have also learnt about rotating and tessellating shapes. We talked about how we rotated the shapes to make our shape pictures and how they fit together.



Willow Class

This week Willow class have been learning about position and direction in maths. We have giving the Beebots instructions to get to a specific point using forwards,

backwards left and right. We have also been describing turns using quarter/ half/ three quarters/ full turns, clockwise and anticlockwise. We have made maps and been giving instructions to find the treasure.



Chestnut Class

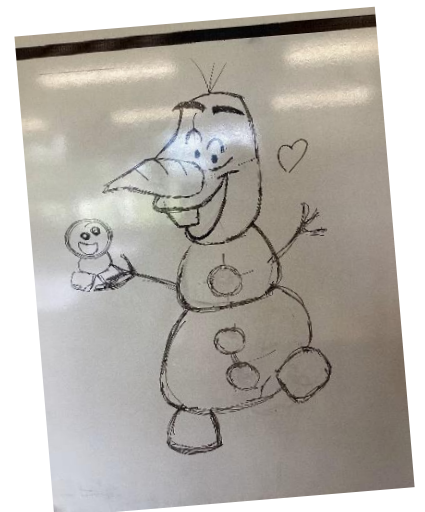
This term, our learning in science is all about plants, their lifecycles and what affects their growth. We have learnt that plants need nutrients to grow but what happens if two identical plants each receive a different amount of nutrients? Will they still grow and flower at the same time? To find the answer to this, we designed an investigation: we placed two identical tomato plants in the same size pot with the same amount of soil on the windowsill in the classroom.

Every day, we give 50ml of water to one of them and 50ml of water enriched with nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus to the other plant. Our hypothesis is that the tomato plant receiving water enriched with nutrients will grow faster, produce earlier flowers (more of them too!), leading to more tomatoes. We'll report our findings in a few weeks' time.



Rowan Class

Both year 5 and 6 have worked so exceptionally hard this week that today we did some fantastic activities. This morning, we spent time learning to sketch Olaf from the movie Frozen. We were guided by one of the animators who had originally working on the movie, finalising Olafs cute and friendly look. While we sketched, she explained about how and why she started working for Disney Animation Studios and it was so inspiring to hear someone talk about truly chasing their dreams. I wonder what dreams all our wonderful children will chase in the future.



Forest School

Leeches, froglets, a muntjac deer, baby blackbird chicks, dragonfly larvae, stag beetles, hedgehogs and newts galore have all made an appearance in recent months at Forest School. The children have been fascinated by their finds and asked lots of curious questions, which we've tried to find the answers to together.

We think that last year's improvements to the pond area, in the form of more varied water-loving plants and natural hidey holes, have increased the biodiversity there, hence the reappearance of frogs after a couple of frog-less years as well as our first leech!

After overnight rain this week, year 1 children were fascinated to see so many different snails out and about (we discovered that there are over 100 kinds of snails in the UK) munching through the dead leaf and animal matter and restoring health to our garden and woodland soils. You can find out lots more [here and even record your own snail safari](#).

The new shed and extended site have completely changed the way sessions run, allowing even greater freedom and choice of play-led learning and development as well as more independence and control over the children's own activities.

The year 5/6 after school maintenance crew as well as all class groups have helped with starting to develop the extension, to enhance its biodiversity while finding ways to minimise and mitigate the impact of our activities on the natural world. Logistically, it has made life easier for me to deal with endless weeks of wet kit and clothing - thank you FOSS for your support!

There has also been plenty of campfire cooking in the better weather and when adult ratios permit, including nettle crisps, foraged teas, popcorn, soup, cheese toasties and toffee apple chunks - anything to avoid a marshmallow!

We are always hugely grateful to our regular parent volunteers - you know who you are! - who come out rain or shine. In recent weeks we have welcomed a couple of new parents, and it has been delightful to see children sharing their knowledge and knotting skills with them - why not come along and find out how to make a simple ladder with a marlinspike hitch, learn the difference between a tadpole and an eft, or sample some delicious fire side treats?



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 21 st May	Marlborough Induction Day 1	9.30am to 12.15pm
Tuesday 21 st May	Kittle Photography	Class Group Photo 9am
Thursday 23 rd May	May Day Dancing – Children (please wear Spring clothes)	2pm Parents Welcome
Thursday 23 rd May	Last Day of Term 5	
Friday 24 th May	Inset Day	School Closed
Monday 3 rd June	Term 6 Starts	
Monday 10 th to Tuesday 11 th June	Chestnut Class	Youlbury Residential
Thursday 20 th June	Marlborough Induction Day 2	9.30am to 2.30pm
Tuesday 2 nd July	Shuttle Up Morning	
Tuesday 2 nd July	Marlborough Induction Day 3	8.25am to 2.30pm
Saturday 6 th July	Summer Fete	
Wednesday 10 th July (reserve date 12 th July)	Sports Day	1.30pm (parents can arrive from 1.15pm)
Wednesday 17 th July	Rowan Class – “The Island that Rocks” performance	2pm & 6pm Tickets £2.00 available from 3 rd July
Friday 19 th July	Camping Day	Oak and Willow Classes
Monday 22 nd July	Leavers Assembly	2.15pm
Wednesday 24 th July	Year 6 Class Party	10am to 12noon
Wednesday 24 th July	Last Day of Term 6	School finishes 1.30pm

After School Clubs available to book

Day	Club	Dates	Year groups	Time	Cost
Monday	French Club – Please book direct. juliet.taylor2@btinternet.com		4 to 6	3.15 - 3.45pm	TBC
Tuesday	Magical Maths https://magicalmathsclub.com/club/listing/stonesfield-school/	16 th April to 2 nd July (not 4 th June) 10 weeks	1 to 6	3.15 – 4.15pm	£80.00
Thursday	Yoga Club Please book direct at Natalie.meylan001@gmail.com		1 to 6	3.15 – 4.15pm	TBC

FoSS News

We are busy with planning our Summer Fete which will be held on Saturday 6th July. If you can be involved with planning and/or you can help on the day, please let us know!

We will be sending out poster templates for children to design their own poster to display at home in the window.

Tombola collection will start after half term. We would be grateful for all donations of the following: Gift sets, new books, Chocolates/Biscuits, New toys and Alcohol.

Community News:



May Football Camp

Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th,
Thursday 30th and Friday 31st May

Boys and Girls Ages 6-14
9am-3pm



Open to all abilities, engaging games to improve skill, fun challenges, matches & tournaments.
Venue- Kidlington FC, Yarnton Road, OX5 1AT

£25 per day or £80 for all four days

WhatsApp, Text, or Email to reserve your space.

Payment to be made via card or cash at the course.

Contact Ben Sadler to book:
sadlerben@hotmail.co.uk / 077921 72430

Stonesfield Strikers

Stonesfield Youth FC are running some taster footie sessions for Year one and Reception children starting on Saturday 25th May 2024. Starting at 8.45am to 9.30am at Stonesfield Playing fields.

Please contact David Holloway on 07837889587 or Stonesfield FC if you'd like more information.

