

# OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER



March 2023

Welcome to our March newsletter. This half term has flown by and we are now at the end of the Spring term. This is what we have been up to in March.....

## Sycamore Class

This term we have been fortunate to have Mrs Zarouq with us and, due to her faith, she has been able to talk to the children about Ramadan. They learnt that most Muslims fast between dawn and sunset, and how fasting allows Muslims to devote themselves to their faith. The children found out that during Ramadan, it is common to have one meal (suhour) just before dawn and another (iftar) directly after sunset. They all agreed this would be a real challenge for them and were keen to hear how Mrs Zarouq gets on.

The children were lucky enough to taste some sweets and dates brought in by Mrs Zarouq. They are keen, when Ramadan is completed, to have our own Eid al-Fitr.

Thank you to Mrs Zarouq for organising this - what a wonderful opportunity for our children to explore and understand other faiths.



## Fir Class

Year 3 have been learning all about the Stone Age and this week visited Celtic Harmony Stone Age village. The children got to build dens, watch a fire display in a round house, hunt and gather in the woods and also do some cooking. We all had a great time!



## Beech Class

Year 1 has had such a busy month. The children have enjoyed Science Week, investigating different types of soil and also planting wild flowers for Mothers' Day. They have created beautiful landscape collages in Art and participated in lots of energetic activities during Sports Week.

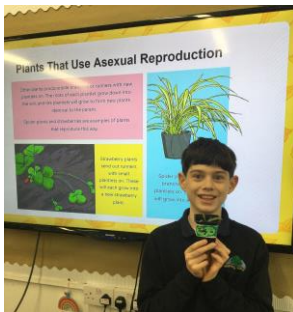


## Oak Class

This month, as part of sports week, Year 4 had the opportunity to learn fencing! The children listened well as they discovered a new activity. The children had to stand in a specific way and use agility to dodge and 'poke' during different games at the end of the session.



## Redwood Class



We've been super lucky this half term in Science, as we got our own baby spider plant! We were learning about asexual reproduction in plants, and it turns out spider plants can create offspring by sending out shoots. We're all officially plant parents!



## Ash Class



Now it is March, we have been thinking about Spring in Ash class. The daffodils Miss Loveridge planted with the children back in September have bloomed and so we have created our own for the season display in class. In Science Week, we were joined by Year Six to explore the weird and wonderful smell pots that Mr. Bradman had prepared, including ones with garlic and marmite! During this week we also created castles in the sky and planted 'magic' beans to see which will grow the highest first. We have also been writing instructions for making wolf traps in Literacy and exploring the number bonds to make ten in maths.



## Elm Class



On Friday 24th March we welcomed some guest speakers who came in to Year 2 to share information with us about WWII. They brought in military uniforms, examples of ration boxes, soldier's equipment & even 2 military vehicles, which we had fun exploring.

The children & class adults were able to dress in the theme of the time & many enjoyed doing this, bringing in some great homemade props - What a great experience it was!



## Willow Class

March has certainly been a busy month for Willow class. We enjoyed World Book Day spending time with our buddies in Nursery and Reception. The buzz the younger children get from seeing the older children is just so heart warming, it really helps them settle as part of Overstone. We have also been very lucky to have Mr Buttle-Stevens come and show us how to do 'coding' for real. We now have all the basic skills to create our own web page. We are really grateful to him for giving up his time to come along and teach us. We can't quite believe that we are about to enter our last term of Primary School. We have so much to do this next term we are definitely going to be kept busy and look forward to sharing with you what we have been up to in future newsletters.



## Acorn Class

Over the last few weeks we have really enjoyed learning and acting out our stories, The 3 Little pigs was a favourite. We also enjoyed getting together with our Year 6 buddies do our science experiments. One experiment was smell pots where we had to guess what was inside. We had marmite, chocolate, coffee, lemon, mint toothpaste, and curry powder. The other experiment was confusing cans, thinking about weight and using ramps to see how far the cans rolled and why? It was great fun and we learnt a lot!



## Forest School

It has been a busy month in forest school, from looking for signs of spring to learning facts about worms. Some children have been cooking, both linked to their History learning and linked to how to cook on a fire. We have seen the children improve their knowledge of tying knots and carrying out Science experiments. Thank you Mrs May, for giving the children such varied opportunities in the forest.



## Donation from Dobbies Garden Centre



As you are aware the children planted seeds in a specially designed pot for a wonderful lady in their lives on Mother's Day. It has been lovely to hear the children talk about giving their pot to grandma or auntie or mum and where they will plant it in order for the flowers to grow.



We would like to thank Dobbies Garden Centre at Bletchley, who donated the pots and seeds as part of their community project. Their generosity meant that there were lots of happy ladies in the village.



What is coming up in April .....

- **Friday 31 March** – End of term at 3.10/3.15
- **Monday 17 April** – Return to school
- **Tuesday 18 April** – Bags 2 School
- **Tuesday 25 April** – PTA book swap
- **Thursday 20 April** – Y5 trip to the Space Centre
- **Monday 1 May** – Bank holiday – School and Pre-School will be closed

And finally....

We say goodbye to Mrs Brain, our lovely Teaching Assistant who currently works in Year 5. Mrs Brain has worked at Overstone for 20 years and has seen many changes in her time here. She has worked across many year groups and we estimate she has helped over 1000 children in the many roles she has had. Mrs Brain has been an avid champion of sport in school, supporting children at the many festivals we have attended and who could forget her own London marathon triumph. Mrs Brain, we thank you for all you have done for everyone at Overstone. We are all better people having known you and we wish you a very happy retirement.