

## Term 4 – “Plants and Flowers”

This term was very rich in terms of discovery, observation and developing as well as nurturing a sense of respect for nature and care for life itself in general. The children learned how to grow plants and flowers, identify seeds, recognise various plants and flowers that surround us in our natural environment and become more familiar with ones that prefer different climates/habitats.

The methodological approach of this term focused greatly on a ‘hands-on’ and practical approach, prompting the children to experience and establish a greater connection with the world around them, reflecting on and testing the assimilated knowledge through getting our hands dirty! (literally 😊)

With its inherent focus on connection to nature and practical approach, FIS proved itself to be a true asset while studying this subject as the easily accessible forest, orchard as well as garden all contributed to making the children’s experience more rich, vibrant and authentic.

### Discovery

The children discovered the essential elements needed in order for plant life to grow: seed, soil, sun and water as well as the conditions needed for the continuation and proliferation of this life through the study of bees and the pollination process. The children were able to experience first-hand how different plants grow at varying rates and how they respond according to how much their needs are met in terms of space, quality of soil, amount of sun/water provided.

### Observation

The children were encouraged to develop their observational skills through nature walks, identification of species as well as microscopic examinations. They were delighted to be able to distinguish various flowers and plants by themselves and peer through the microscope lens in order to investigate how plant life operates on a cellular level.

### Respect

Throughout the term the children were encouraged to develop a sense of respect for nature and general care for life itself. By providing them with opportunities that responsabilised them, they were able to take ownership and embrace a ‘pro-active’ role in terms of helping life grow and develop. This strong, caring and nurturing bond with nature is essential from early on if children are to become adults who respect and care for the world in which they live, having already had the opportunity to establish a strong sense of communion with the natural world.

### Learning about seeds and planting our first beans

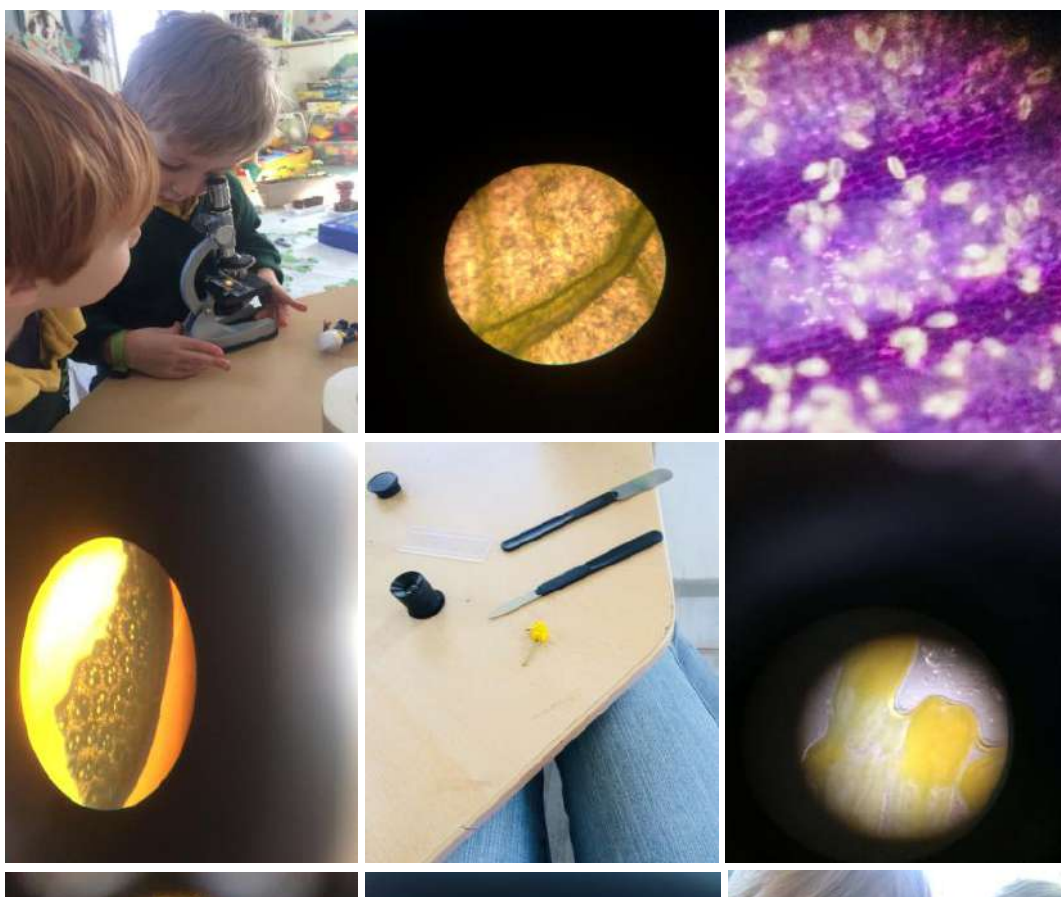
The Chestnuts learned all about the beginning of plant life: seeds and how they come in all sorts of colours, shapes and sizes! Indeed, plants and flowers don’t all look the same, so it only makes sense that they would be different from the very beginning 😊 Picking our favourite seeds, exploring roots and getting our hands dirty by gathering soil to plant our very first beans was a fun and instructive start to our growing adventure!



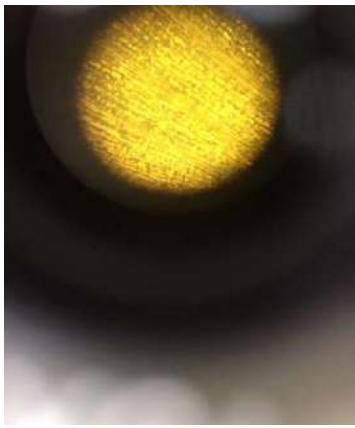


### Microscope Exploration

Thanks to the equipment available to us at FIS, the Chestnuts were able to explore nature through the microscope and learn about the building blocks of soil, leaves, flowers and pollen! Looking at the world through a microscope makes learning about our environment so much more fun and interesting as it nurtures our sense of observation, respect and curiosity for our surroundings.







### Planting Aromatic Herbs, Carrots and Flowers

The Chestnuts have had so much fun planting this term! Below are a few snapshots of them planting many different plants and flowers such as carrots, basil, dill, tarragon, chives, purple basil, chamomile, cucumber, sunflowers, bluebells, painted daisies, cornflowers and Chinese woolflowers! Tiny sprouts and seedlings are already showing and we certainly can't wait to taste all of our wonderfully organic aromatic herbs and vegetables that have been tended with such love and care 😊



### Planting Strawberries and Tomatoes

The Chestnuts have learned about how roots function and how much space they need under



The Chestnuts have learned about how roots function and how much space they need under the earth in order for a plant/vegetable/fruit/flower to be able to grow properly. We also studied how crucial it is for water to be able to drain out of the pot to avoid rotting and drowning. Caring for life is hard work at first but very rewarding as once you give plants the right environment and attention, all you have to do is watch the magic of life unfold 😊



### Building The House Project

The Chestnuts are participating in the House Building School Project and are starting to acquire serious wood construction skills! Sawing, nailing, carving and using tools such as electric screwdrivers were all part of this wonderful initiative which gave us the opportunity to learn more about construction, safety and required all of us to work as a team! Go Chestnuts! 😊







### Easter Eggs and Cards

The Chestnuts were busy little bunnies this Easter, preparing gifts and cards for their parents and loved ones 😊 We painted real eggs with food dye and vinegar, decorated big ornament ones with beautiful patterned paper and created special bunny cards! Amazing work Chestnuts, well done!







### Forest Exploration

The Chestnuts have experienced many exciting and fun outdoors activities this term such as working on our gross motor skills through balancing and climbing, cycling, birch tree tapping and colourful parachute games! We were also very lucky as not only were we able to experience many different climates throughout the term but caterpillars decided to make our balancing beams their favourite spot to eat 😊 How fun!







### Plants and Flowers Show

The Chestnuts were very excited and proud to perform their end of term show “Plants and Flowers” in front of the entire school and parents 😊 They were amazing dancing little bees, singing flowers and growing seedlings following the adventures depicted in the Giant Book they created throughout this term! A good balance of concentration and attention to detail mixed in with some fun feet-painting, song and dance helped us create this wonderfully creative performance!  
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