

News and updates from Clouds, Rainbows and Stars

February and March 2022

The Garden

The children have been focusing on the garden this term as the weather is changing and we move into Spring. There are signs of Spring everywhere in the garden, with daffodils and hyacinths blooming, birds singing, bees buzzing and the blossom appearing on the trees. The children have enjoyed playing Springo! – a game finding 10 different signs of Spring in the garden.



It is also the season to begin sowing seeds and caring for plants. The children made plans and lists for the garden, choosing what vegetables they wanted to grow. This was partly inspired by reading 'Errol's Garden' where all the neighbours come together with their different skills to create a rooftop garden. The children began the term by preparing the garden for growing. They helped to make a raised bed out of wood, hammering nails and putting in screws to hold it altogether. We then had a big delivery of soil and the children helped take wheelbarrows and trolleys of soil from the gate to the raised beds. This week, we have begun to plant seeds – carrots, marrows, pumpkins, tomatoes, broccoli, beans and sunflowers. We hope to transplant the seedlings into the raised beds when they grow.



We hope families will be involved in growing seeds too, as the children will be bringing home a growing pack over the holiday (see below).

World Book Day

At the beginning of March, we celebrated World Book Day. There were lots of opportunities to share stories with cosy reading corners inside and outside, and stories brought to life by using props and by acting them out. In fact the staff acted out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and the children were very excited by this. We also had an opportunity to promote the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library where families who live in Southwark can receive free quality picture books every month until their child turns 5. Some children chose to dress up, but all were involved in sharing stories and book related activities.



New Role Play Café

The children have really enjoyed playing in The Grove Café. They like to take on different roles – being the cook, the person who takes the orders or the customer.

"I'm in the restaurant."

"I have some crackers and milk."

"What do you want?"

"Some pizza and hot chocolate please."



The children love to choose from the menus, write down orders and cook the food.

Science Week

For Science Week, we focused mainly on the natural world, observing different bugs, birds and plants in the garden and then finding out more information about them. We have recently acquired more lovely information books about different aspects of the natural world and things we might find in the garden. We also explored seeds, finding out where they come from by looking inside fruit and seeing how different they all are.



The children had access to science books to choose experiments they wanted to try out, and Carolyn put on a couple of science shows looking at substances that react, forces and how candles burn with oxygen.

Suncream

Now the weather is warm and sunny, please could you put suncream on your child before nursery and tell your child's key person if they need their own suncream or if you are happy for them to use the nursery suncream. Thank you.



End of the day

Here is a reminder about the timings for the end of the day:

Clouds (Claire and Carolyn's groups) – 2.55pm

Rainbows (Sarah and Sandra's groups) – 3.05pm

Stars (Claudeth and Sabrina's groups) – 3.15pm

Please could you come at these times (unless other arrangements have been made with your child's key person). It is very busy at the end of the day and we would really appreciate it if you could wait in line to make it easier for the person at the gate to see who is there.

Thank you.



Come and share your skills!

We are learning about different jobs and roles in the community. We had a local bus driver come and talk about her job, showing the children her uniform and answering their questions about buses and what she does.



You may have a job or skill you would like to share with the children, for example, if you are a chef, you could come and cook with the children; or if you are a nurse, you could come and teach some simple first aid to the children; or if you are a musician, you could come and make music with the children. Please speak to your child's key person if you are interested.

Growing Packs

Each child will soon be given a pack to take home with ideas and resources for growing different seeds. The pack contains sunflower seeds, bean seeds, cress seeds, soil, lollipop stick plant labels and lots of ideas for growing seeds at home and activities linked to Spring.



Please have fun together over the holiday planting and looking after the seeds. We would love to know how you are getting on, so please email some photos to your child's key person and let us know.

Dates for your diary

The nursery will be closed for the **Spring/Easter break from 4th-18th April**.

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**1PW** and **FT** children return on **19<sup>th</sup> April** (1PW is Tues/Wed).

**2PW** children come back on **21<sup>st</sup> April** (2PW is Thu/Fri).

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There will also be a **bank holiday** when the nursery will be closed on **Monday 2nd May**.

Core Books

In February and March we have focused on reading and enjoying the following books, and doing lots of activities linked to the stories:

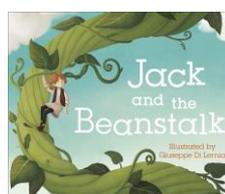
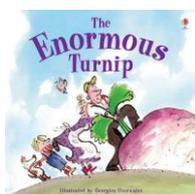
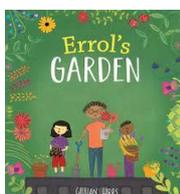
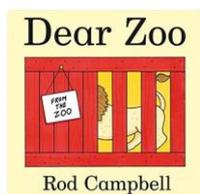
Dear Zoo – a story about animal gifts from the zoo where each animal is not quite right until the end of the story. The children, especially the 2s, have enjoyed sharing this story and joining in with the repeated refrains as well as predicting which animal is hiding in each container.

Errol's Garden – a story about a child who creates a roof garden on the block of flats where he lives. All the neighbours come together to plan, plant and care for the garden. The children have used this story as inspiration to plan and plant the nursery garden.

The Enormous Turnip/The Gigantic Turnip – a traditional story about growing turnips where one of the turnips is enormous. It takes lots of people and animals to pull the turnip out of the ground. We are looking forward to our vegetable seeds growing – we wonder how big the vegetables will be.

Jack and the Beanstalk – a traditional story about Jack who climbs a beanstalk grown from magic beans – he has lots of adventures at the top of the beanstalk. It has inspired us to grow beans too.

Jasper's Beanstalk – a story about a cat who grows a beanstalk. He has to learn what beans need to grow, and more importantly, he has to learn to be patient. The children need to care for their bean seeds and wait for them to grow as it takes quite a few weeks.



Some Spring Poems and Rhymes

Pancakes (by Christina Rossetti)

Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
Pop it in the pan.
Fry a pancake,
Toss a pancake,
Catch it if you can.



Hungry Birdies

I have built a little nest, look inside,
look inside.
Hungry birdies with their beaks, open
wide, open wide.
And the little birdies grow, day by day
by day.
'Till they spread their wings and fly, far
away, far away.



Spring Wind

When the spring wind blows,
In her gruff and growly way,
She's saying keep your mittens on,
I'm blowing cold today.
But when the spring wind blows,
In her soft and gentle way,
She's saying take your jumpers off,
I'm blowing warm today.



A Little Seed

A little seed for me to sow,
A little soil for it to grow.
A little hole, a little pat,
A little wish, and that is that.
A little sun, a little shower,
A little wait, and then a flower.

