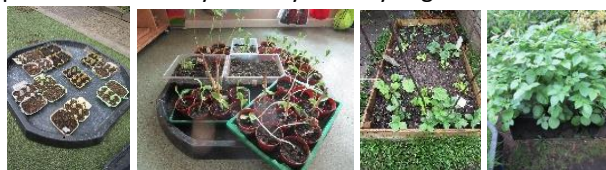


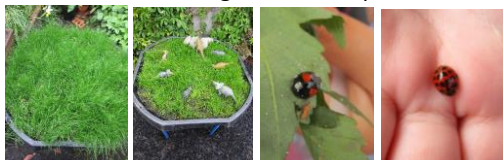
News and updates from Clouds, Rainbows and Stars April and May 2022

Our Garden

In the last newsletter, we reported how the children planned what to grow in the garden, how they built a raised bed and how they planted vegetable seeds. This term, the children have planted out the seedlings in the vegetable beds – pumpkins, courgettes, marrows, potatoes, beans and cauliflowers. They water the seedlings every day and are excited about seeing them grow, although they are learning that they have to be patient before they actually see any vegetables.



The children have also planted flower seeds and grass seeds. We made a mini-field in a tray to enhance the children's small world play with the dinosaurs, animals and minibeasts. The children continue to notice changes in the garden and love the minibeasts that they find. Snails continue to be a favourite, although we are now finding out about ladybirds, caterpillars, butterflies, moths and woodlice. We have been learning about lifecycles, so it has been fascinating observing these creatures at different stages of development.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 8th June (1PW/FT) and Thursday 9th June (2PW/FT). Parents/carers are invited to join us for some food, music and fun from 2.30-3.30pm. Children can wear red, white and/or blue on these days.



Time Changes



We are changing the times children arrive at the beginning of the day and leave at the end of the day. Children will **all arrive at 9.00am** and will be dropped off at the **garden gate** (as usual).

Children will **all be picked up at 3.00pm**, and parents/carers will be invited **into the nursery** to pick their children up from their group areas.

Ducklings



As we have been learning about lifecycles, we have been involved with an egg-hatching project with Incredible Eggs. This has enabled children to observe eggs in an incubator, make predictions about what might happen, and watch as the ducklings hatch out of the eggs. The children have seen the ducklings take their first steps, snuggle together to keep warm and learn to eat and drink. The children have held the ducklings gently and watched as they had a little swim. They return to the farm this week. The children have been very excited about the ducklings - here are some of their comments:

"Inside those eggs are real ducklings." "Quack quack!"
"I know the eggs are going to crack." "Ahh! Baby. Sshhh!"

Dates for your diary

Next week is the **half-term break (30th May-3rd June)**, and the nursery will also be closed on **Monday 6th June**.

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**1PW and FT children return on Tues 7<sup>th</sup> June** (1PW is Tues/Wed).  
**2PW children come back on Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> June** (2PW is Thu/Fri).

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We will be having some **Leavers' Celebrations** for all the children who are leaving us to go to primary schools this summer. These will take place during the **week beginning 18th July**. More details to follow.



Summer Weather



On sunny days, please remember to put sun-cream on your child in the morning and we can reapply it after lunch, with your permission. Please could children wear tops with sleeves to protect their shoulders and bring sun hats. Also, we will be having lots more water play in the garden in the warm weather, so please make sure your child has spare sets of named clothes to change into.

Thank you.

Core Books

During April and May, we have been focusing on reading and enjoying the following books, and doing lots of activities linked to the stories:

Superworm – This story is about a worm who is like a kind superhero to all the minibeasts – they all come to his rescue when he is in danger. We have enjoyed looking for worms and imagining what they might be able to do.

The Centipede's 100 Shoes – This story is about a centipede who buys some shoes and finds out that he has less than 100 legs. It has enabled us to think about some 'big' numbers and do some mathematical problem-solving.

What The Ladybird Heard – This story is about a ladybird who lives on a farm and saves the cow from thieves. This has been a lovely story to retell and links to the ladybirds we are finding in the garden at the moment.

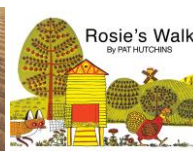
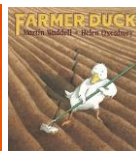
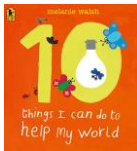
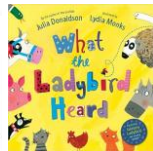
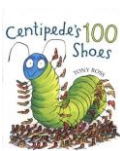
Clean Up – This story is about a girl called Rocket who is saddened by finding so much plastic waste in the ocean and decides to do somethings about it. We have been inspired to think more about our environment.

10 Things I Can Do To Help My World – This book gives 10 practical ideas that children can do to help look after the planet. We have been encouraging the children to think about what they can do.

Farmer Duck – This story is about a lazy farmer and a duck who does all the work. This links with our duckling hatching project, but also promotes the ideas of helping and thinking about how others feel.

Rosie's Walk – This story is about a hen who goes for a walk around a farmyard with a fox keeping watch close behind. It has been a good story to explore positional language and concepts.

10 Little Fingers and 10 Little Toes – This story has been our core book for the 2s. It explores the great diversity there is with babies born all over the world, but there is one thing the same – they have 10 fingers and 10 toes!



Spring Poems

Under a Stone

Under a stone where the earth was firm,
I found a wiggly, wriggly worm.
"Good morning," I said.
"How are you today?"
But the wiggly worm just wriggled away.



A Little Shell

Once I saw a little shell,
Upon a garden wall.
I tapped upon a little door,
No answer came at all.
But as I turned to go away,
A snail crept out to see,
Who tapped upon his little door,
He waved his horns at me.



Ladybird

There's a ladybird in my garden. She has lots of spots.
She climbs upon the plants and along the pots.
She walks around all day, busy as can be.
This lovely little creature, roaming oh so free.
She sits upon the leaves and underneath the sun.
Up and down she goes, having lots of fun.
She is very happy and passes on the hours.
Roaming around the plants, in and out the flowers.
So beautiful a creature, so beautiful is she.
Roaming around my garden is where she loves to be.

