

News and updates from Clouds, Rainbows and Stars - April/May 2023

Our Core Books and the Garden

The children have enjoyed many books this term, including our Core Books, 'Superworm' and 'What The Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson, and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle.







The Core Books have focused on the creatures that appear in the garden. The children have loved listening to these stories and joining in with retelling them using puppets and props. They have dug for worms, watched how snails move, looked for ladybirds and found out about the different butterflies that flutter by. We enjoyed all the rain recently, as it meant there were plenty of worms in the ground and snails appearing from their hiding places. The children learned facts about them and observed them closely. The garden has also been a great place to observe lifecycles of creatures in their natural environment, especially ladybirds and butterflies. ladybirds are coming out of hibernation with the warmer weather, and the garden is full of blossom providing nectar for the butterflies. We have also created a small wildlife pond to encourage more creatures into the garden, and for the birds to come to drink and bathe. We expect to see more lifecycles over the coming weeks.







For more information about the children's learning, please visit

https://grovenurseryschool.co.uk/

You can also find out about what the children have been learning on Twitter at https://twitter.com/nursery_grove

Gardening

After making all the preparations for the garden, this term we have focused on planting seeds and seedlings. We planted potatoes, broad beans, tomatoes, lettuces, radishes, broccoli, cauliflowers, pumpkins, kale, chard, courgettes, peas, leeks, nasturtiums, sunflowers and wild flowers. Some are still waiting to grow in pots and some are already flourishing in the growing beds. The children have learned so much about growing and love to spend time watering all the different flowers and vegetable plants. We are looking forward to harvesting some of the vegetables before we break up for the summer holiday.



Our Robins

It is usual at this time of year to find out about lifecycles by watching chicks or ducklings hatch from their eggs. This year we have been given a special opportunity from nature itself. A robin has built her nest on the decking, just where we keep our waterproof coats and first aid kit! She laid 6 eggs and she incubated them for nearly two weeks. This weekend they hatched, and the chicks are developing in the nest! The male robin comes to feed them from the nearby tree, appropriately named the 'Red Robin'. The children have been learning information about robins and observing them each day, drawing pictures and making comments. We have other baby birds in the garden too, including great tits and blackbirds.









We have been learning some Core Songs this half-term: 'There's A Worm At The Bottom Of My Garden', 'Old MacDonald Had A Farm' and 'There's A Tiny Caterpillar On A Leaf'. We would love to sing these songs for you and with you at our Singalong on Friday (26th May) at 2.30pm, so please come and join us in the garden.



Den Building

The children have enjoyed exploring the new denmaking equipment in the garden. They have been learning to use clips and bungies to attach fabric to sticks and frames. The different fabrics are varied and include khaki material, sparkly cobweb material and rainbow organza material. The children have enjoyed building in all weathers, with the wind wafting the fabric, the dens providing shade from the sun and the transparent tarpaulin enabling children to watch the rain fall by looking from underneath. This has led to all kinds of exciting imaginary and sensory play.







Coronation

We celebrated King Charles III's coronation recently as it was an historic occasion. The children talked about the pictures of King Charles and Queen Camilla, made thrones out of wooden blocks, and painted flags and bunting for our coronation celebration. We talked about the things that interested King Charles, such as caring for the natural world. To mark the occasion, the children planted a pear tree and some red, white and blue flowers in the garden, which were unveiled during our celebration. Many families came to join us, bringing and sharing food from around the world and singing our 'Long live the king!' song. Thank you to everyone who came and made the occasion so special.











Summer is on the way!

As the weather becomes warmer, please dress your child appropriately for the weather and provide a clearly named sunhat. Staff are also able to apply sun cream so please inform your child's Key Person if this is needed.

Dates for your diary

The half-term break is 29th May – 2nd June 2023 (inclusive).

1PW and FT children return on Monday 5th June (1PW is Mon/Tue). 2PW children come back on Wednesday 7th June (2PW is Wed/Thu/Fri).

The **end of term Singalong** is at 2.30pm on **Friday 26th May (2PW & FT)**.

(Sorry, we have had to cancel Tuesday's Singalong due to a shortage of staff.)

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

We will have our end of year singalongs and leavers celebrations in the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup>

July – more details to follow.