

### Activities linked to Core Books

#### **Owl Babies**

The children have enjoyed this story, especially retelling the story with the repeated refrain, "I want my mummy," which they have also learned to sign in Makaton. They have been involved in creative activities linked to the story, such as making the tree and the owls. They have been exploring 'light and dark', making dens and looking at different sources of light, especially with visits to the sensory room.



#### **The Gingerbread Man**

This story has been fun to act out both inside and in the garden, with the children joining in with the repeated refrain, "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!" We have enjoyed baking gingerbread people together and eating them as we retell the story.



#### **Stick Man**

This rhyming story has been fun to listen to and is good for developing the imagination. Children have been looking for sticks in the garden to make their own stick people, and then thinking about all the adventures their stick person could have. They have also enjoyed acting out the story in different parts of the garden.



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](https://twitter.com/nursery_grove)

### Celebrations and Special Days

#### **Diwali**

We learned about the story of 'Rama and Sita' and one of our families came in and talked to the children about how they celebrate Diwali. They shared some of the home-made treats they like to eat as they celebrate together.



#### **Bonfire Night**

Many of the children visited Burgess Park to collect sticks and look for signs of Autumn using the 'Autumngo!' sheets. We used some of the sticks to have a fire bowl session, where the children could experience a real open fire. We made some bread and cooked it over the fire.



#### **Christmas**

The children have been involved in many activities linked to Christmas, including writing letters to Santa, making decorations, dressing the Christmas tree, singing festive songs, listening to the Nativity story and wrapping presents. We had a lovely Christmas dinner and look forward to our sing-a-long and visits from Santa at the Christmas parties in the last week.





### Warm Clothes

Now the weather is much colder, please make sure your child has enough clothes to keep warm. Encourage your children to practise putting on their coats, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens by themselves. It is important that they learn to be as independent as possible as they may choose to go outside many times a day. It would be really helpful if you can make sure all clothes are labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

### FINAL REMINDER – Primary Admissions

A final reminder to the parents of children who will be going to Reception classes next year (i.e. children born between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2019) – the online primary school application has to be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 so please apply for schools as soon as possible:

[www.southwark.gov.uk/schoolsadmission](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/schoolsadmission)

If you need any help or support, please talk to your child's key person.

### Makaton

We learn lots of signs in Makaton to support communication. This Christmas, we are signing to all our songs. Here are some seasonal signs:



Merry



Christmas



Happy

New

Year

### 🎵 Christmas Sing-A-Long 🎵

You are invited to come to our Christmas sing-a-long on  
**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December (1PW & FT)**  
and/or  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December (2PW & FT)**  
in the community space (near to the Reception) from **2.30-3.00pm**.  
Come and sing some festive songs and enjoy some warm apple juice and gingerbread.



### Dates for your diary

The Christmas break is **19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023** (inclusive).

**1PW** and **FT** children return on **3<sup>rd</sup> January** (1PW is Tues/Wed).

**2PW** children come back on **5<sup>th</sup> January** (2PW is Thu/Fri).

The Christmas sing-a-long is at 2.30pm on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December (1PW & FT)** and **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December (2PW & FT)**.

We will have Christmas parties and visits from Santa during the day on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December (1PW & FT)** and **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December (2PW & FT)**. Children can wear party clothes on these days but nothing else is needed.

We have a staff training day on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February**. The nursery will be closed for children on that day.

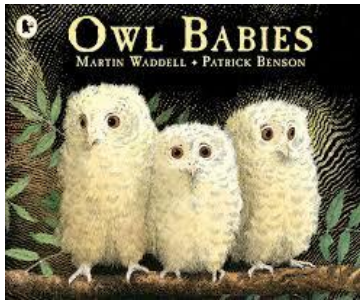
Everyone at The Grove wishes you a





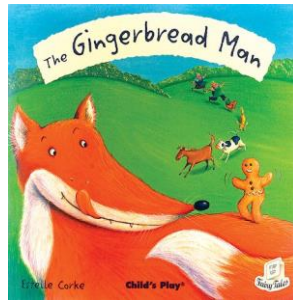
In November and December we have focused on reading and enjoying the following core books, poems and songs/rhymes and doing lots of activities connected with them:

### Core Books



#### Owl Babies

A story set at night about three baby owls waiting for their mummy to return home.



#### The Gingerbread Man

A traditional story about a gingerbread man who almost escapes being eaten.



#### Stick Man

A rhyming story about a stick man who has lots of adventures before returning home.

### Core Poems

#### Wise Old Owl

A wise old owl  
Sat in an oak.  
The more he heard  
The less he spoke.  
The less he spoke  
The more he heard.  
Why aren't we all like  
that wise old bird?



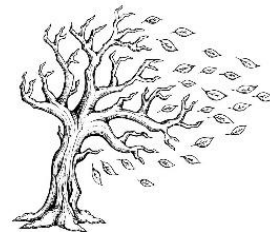
#### Breezy Weather

Breezy weather.  
Freezy weather.  
When the leaves fall,  
we all fall together.  
Breezy weather.  
Freezy weather.  
When the wind blows,  
we huddle together.



#### Who Has Seen the Wind?

Who has seen the wind? Neither I nor you.  
But when the leaves hang trembling,  
The wind is passing through.  
Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I.  
But when the trees bow down their heads,  
The wind is passing by.



### Christmas Songs

The song words are on the fortnightly learning sheet and all the songs are signed in Makaton.



#### Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star

A traditional song with a festive theme, looking at the star on the Christmas tree.



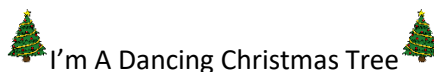
#### Estrellita Dónde Estás

The familiar song of 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' in Spanish.



#### Elu Agogo

A Christmas song in Yoruba about bells ringing and angels singing at Christmas.



#### I'm A Dancing Christmas Tree

A fun song about a Christmas tree including lots of movement and dancing.



#### We Wish You A Merry Christmas

A traditional song, wishing our friends and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!