

News and updates from Clouds, Rainbows and Stars – February/March 2024

Our Core Books and The Garden

The children have enjoyed many books this term, including our Core Books, 'Errol's Garden' by Gillian Hibbs, and two traditional stories, 'The Enormous Turnip' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.



The Core Books have focused on the garden as this is the season when we plan what we will grow and start making preparations. In 'Errol's Garden', the neighbours in a community come together to plan a garden using their different skills. We have been planning our garden together with the children deciding some of the plants that we will grow, including potatoes, broccoli, carrots, pumpkins and beans.



We aim to grow vegetables all year round. Earlier this term we harvested our leeks and had them for lunch. We have been preparing the ground for growing vegetables this year by taking out the weeds and adding new compost. We have also been preparing the seeds and tubers. The children have a growing pack with ideas for growing seeds at home, including bean, sunflower and cress seeds, some soil and lolly sticks to make plant labels.

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

<https://grovenurseryschool.co.uk/>

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day by encouraging and promoting a love for books and reading. We brought books to life through sharing stories and information books. There were opportunities to make props for stories, such as masks, and to engage in creative activities linked to stories, such as making dough gingerbread people and making houses using blocks for 'The Three Little Pigs'. Many parents joined libraries and took books to share at home, and we are encouraging regular book borrowing at nursery with our own library. Thank you to all the parents and family members who came in and shared books with the children on World Book Day.



British Science Week

We celebrated British Science Week in March and invited parents to join us for some exciting science activities. There were lots of opportunities for the children to explore and observe different aspects of science, making predictions and testing ideas. Here are some of the activities the children enjoyed:

- Exploring gravity through water play with funnels and tubes, and by creating a giant marble run using gutters and balls – both of which involved problem solving and working collaboratively.
- Investigating what happens when different substances are mixed together – mixing vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to create a chemical reaction, and making their own bubble solution to blow bubbles.
- Understanding that cooking can also involve science through seeing the way that yeast causes the dough to rise when making bread.
- Exploring magnets by finding out what magnets do when in contact with different materials and each other.
- Exploring nature by doing bug hunts, looking for signs of Spring, making bird feeders, planting seedlings and exploring the different size and shape of seeds in fruit.



♪ End of Term Singalong ♪

We have been learning some Core Songs this half-term: 'This Is The Way We Plant The Seeds', 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and 'Singing In The Rain'. We are also learning to sing and sign 'Hot Cross Buns'. We would love to sing these songs for you and with you at our Singalongs on Tuesday 26th March at 9am and Thursday 28th March at 3pm, so please come and join us, for this and to receive your holiday growing pack.

Spring 2 Singalong

This Is The Way We Plant The Seeds

This is the way we plant the seeds,
Plant the seeds, plant the seeds.
This is the way we plant the seeds on a sunny afternoon.

This is the way we water the seeds.....

This is the way the sun shines down.....

This is the way we watch and wait.....

This is the way we see them grow.....



Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Heads, shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes.

Heads, shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes.

And eyes and ears and mouth and nose.

Heads, shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes.



Singing In The Rain

I'm singing in the rain, just singing in the rain.
What a glorious feeling, I'm happy again!
Leader: Hang about. Follower: Hang about.
Leader: Arms out. Follower: Arms out.
Together: Tofa, tafa, tofa, tafa, tofa, tafa,
I said tofa, tafa, tofa, tafa, tofa, tafa

I'm singing in the rain, just singing in the rain.
What a glorious feeling, I'm happy again!
Leader: Hang about. Follower: Hang about.
Leader: Arms out. Follower: Arms out.
Leader: Thumbs up. Follower: Thumbs up.
Together: Tofa, tafa, tofa, tafa, tofa, tafa,
I said tofa, tafa, tofa, tafa, tofa, tafa

(Repeat progressively adding the following actions)

Elbows together. Knees together.
Bottoms out. Tongues out.



Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns, hot cross buns,
One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns.
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons.
One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns.



Feel Good Garden

We received some funding from the Cleaner Greener Safer programme in Southwark to develop an area of the Nursery garden to create a Feel Good Garden. The Feel Good Garden is to become a peaceful and soothing space where children can use their senses and feel relaxed and calm. Claire has been busy planning and preparing the garden with the help of some parents and the children. They have been making raised beds, planting herbs and flowers and installing a water feature, with new elements being added all the time. Thank you to all those who have been involved in developing the garden. The children will soon be able to enjoy using the space to support their well-being.



Dates for your diary

The Easter break is **29th March-12th April 2024** (inclusive).

AM, PM, 1PW and **FT** children return on **Monday 15th April** (1PW is Mon/Tue/Wed).

2PW children return on **Thursday 18th April** (2PW is Thu/Fri).

The end of term Singalong is at **9am on Tuesday 26th March (AM, 1PW, FT)** and **3pm on Thursday 28th March (PM, 2PW, FT)**.

We also have a staff training day next term: **Tuesday 7th May (2 more days tbc)**
There is also a bank holiday on **Monday 6th May**
There will be **no nursery** on these days.

Springo!

It is lovely to see the brighter, lighter days of Spring with blossom appearing on the trees and the bees buzzing in the first Spring flowers. The garden at nursery is changing with blossom and flowers blooming and leaf buds opening. We have starting playing the Springo! challenge at nursery and encourage you to do the same at home. Don't forget to send some photos of what you find to your child's key person!



We know that many of our families will be celebrating special festivals over the break, so we would like to wish you



and

