

News and updates from The Grove Nursery School – September/October 2025

Our Core Books

The children have enjoyed many books this term, including our Core Books. These have included:

'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?' by Bill Martin



The children have really enjoyed this story as there are clear colourful pictures of animals and repeated phrases, meaning that they can 'read' the book for themselves and predict what comes next. They have been learning about colours and using the Makaton signs.

'Aaaargghh, Spider!' by Lydia Monks



This has been a really fun story to share as the children love to look for spiders and other creatures in the garden. It has also inspired them to be creative, making their own spiders out of clay and dough.

'Baby Goes To Market' by Atinuke



This story is so lovely about a baby who goes to market with Mama and finds out about all kinds of different foods, and even gets to taste some of them, including coconut, roasted sweetcorn and chin-chin. Some of us went to East Street Market to have a similar experience to the baby.

For more information about the children's learning, please visit <https://grovenurseryschool.co.uk/>

Black History Month

Celebrating our diverse community is something we do every day of the year, but Black History Month gives us the opportunity to focus on sharing, celebrating and understanding the impact of black heritage and culture. We have enjoyed sharing stories and songs from different cultures. Thank you to all the parents who have been very generous, providing food and donating traditional clothing. The children tried cornmeal porridge with water crackers from Jamaica, and cooked pepper and scallion fry bakes from Trinidad using onions, garlic and chillies from the garden. It has been a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other and celebrate our community.



East Street Market

Inspired by 'Baby Goes to Market' by Atinuke, some of the children visited East Street Market where everyone was so friendly and helpful. The children loved looking at all the stalls and seeing a variety of fruit, vegetables, fabric, jewellery and so much more. The children bought some fruit, bread, chin-chin and fabric. They enjoyed tasting the different foods from the market. Some of the children set up their own market in the garden inspired by the book and the visit.



Frank Bowling

The children have been looking at the work of the Black British-Guyanese artist, Frank Bowling, who works locally. Much of his work is abstract and experimental, and is therefore perfect for children to emulate as it encourages their curiosity and exploration. The children have created a canvas using Frank Bowling's techniques of pouring, dripping and flicking different thicknesses of paint, adding geometric shapes, toys, smashed shells, buttons, glitter, chalk dust and much more. They have created a masterpiece.



Community Event

We ended the half term with an event bringing the school community together. It was a lovely occasion, with families and staff bringing traditional dishes from around the world to share, and live music provided by the steel pan band, Heart of Steel. It was also an opportunity to sing our core songs together. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this special occasion.

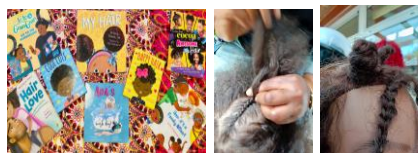


Special Days

In addition to the events already mentioned, there have been other special days this term.

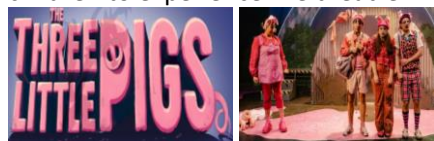
World Afro Day

We celebrated World Afro Day on 15th September, learning about the culture, history and importance of Afro hair. Parents and staff shared how they care for and style their children's hair and the children talked about their own hair experiences and the styles they like in themselves and others.



The Unicorn Theatre

Some children had the privilege of seeing a performance of 'The Three Little Pigs' at The Unicorn Theatre. It was an amazing performance and was a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience live theatre.



Diwali

This week we have learned about Diwali, the festival of lights, and the ways it is celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs. The children commented on the objects and books and listened to the story of Rama and Sita.



Sustainability at The Grove

At the beginning of term, the children entered a competition to name one of the new food waste trucks operating withing Southwark. 3 of the names on the list were chosen – Tummy Tron, Greedy Gizmo and Chewball. Look out for these named trucks on the streets soon. We will celebrate this further when they come to visit us at The Grove in November.



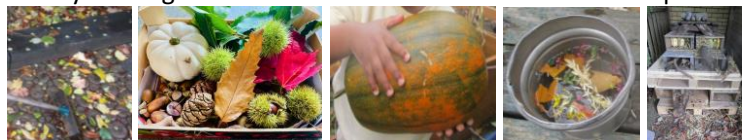
There was a big focus on recycling and reusing during Recycle Week in September, with children recycling and reusing paper, cardboard boxes and plastic containers, including making a city from large boxes. One family visited the Southwark Wonder Day and brought back more ideas and resources linked to recycling.

Some children visited the Burgess Park Community Plant Nursery to collect more seedlings to grow Winter vegetables such as cabbages, wasabi, mustard and herbs.

Our sustainability film was released by Siren Films this September showing how our school community works together to promote sustainability. You can watch clips from this film on our website.

Autumn at The Grove

The Autumn is a beautiful time of year at The Grove. The garden is full of leaves of yellows, oranges and reds, and there are plenty of natural objects to explore, such as conkers, tree seeds and pine cones. The children have enjoyed sweeping the leaves, making leaf garlands and sorting leaves by their colour and shape. They have harvested beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, garlic, sweetcorn, lettuce and herbs, using some of them at snack and for cooking. We also grew a beautiful pumpkin. The children have used the bounty in the garden to create their own mud kitchen recipes too.



Looking for snails, worms and woodlice is a constant source of fascination and learning, and the children built a bug hotel to shelter different minibeasts in the Winter.

Dates for your diary

The **Autumn half-term break** is from **Monday 27th – Friday 31st October** inclusive, so there will be no nursery for children this week. Children return to nursery on **Monday 3rd November**.

The **Parent Conference Day** is **Friday 14th November** – there will be **no nursery session** on this day, but appointments can be made to meet with your child's key person.

There is an **INSET** day and therefore no nursery on **Friday 5th December**.

Primary School Admissions

If your child will be going to a Reception class in a Primary School next year (i.e. children born between 1st Sept 2021 and 31st Aug 2022) – the online primary school application is open and has to be completed by 15th January 2026 so it is a good idea to be thinking about and applying for schools: <https://services.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-admissions>

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