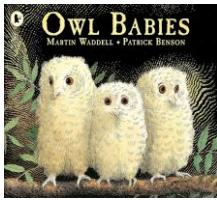


## News and updates from Clouds, Rainbows and Stars – November/December 2025

### Our Core Books

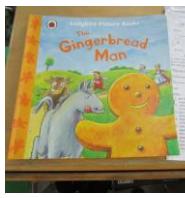
#### Owl Babies

'Owl Babies' is such a lovely story for sharing both inside and in cosy dens outside. The children used twigs and leaves and feathers to make a nest for the baby owls and found out information about owls, such as what they eat and about the different kinds of owls. The children had opportunities to retell the story using the refrain, "I want my mummy," which they also learned to sign in Makaton.



#### The Gingerbread Man

'The Gingerbread Man' is a fun story to retell both inside with puppets and props and outside with the children taking on the different characters and joining in with the repeated refrain, "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!" We baked gingerbread people together and ate them whilst retelling the story and for snack.



#### Stick Man

'Stick Man' is a rhyming story that is fun to listen to and has encouraged the children to use their imaginations as they think about their own stick adventures with sticks found in the garden. Children made their own stick people and then used them when retelling scenes from the story. It has been a good opportunity to learn new vocabulary such as 'jog', 'drift' and 'frolicking' and join in with the repeated phrases such as, "I'm not a stick!... I'm Stick Man, I'm Stick Man, I'm Stick Man, that's me!"



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

### Celebrations and Special Days

The children have had opportunities to talk about what they do at home with their families to celebrate and commemorate different days.

#### Bonfire Night

On 5<sup>th</sup> November the children gathered sticks and built and experienced a real open fire in the fire bowl. They cooked some toast over the fire and afterwards they used the charcoal from the fire to draw pictures outside on the ground.



#### Christmas

The children have participated in many activities linked to Christmas over the last few weeks, including writing letters and labels, making eco-decorations, dressing the Christmas tree, singing festive songs, decorating the grotto, listening to the Nativity story and wrapping presents. Some children enjoyed a tasty Christmas lunch, and there was a special visit from Santa. They visited him in his grotto and even danced with him and played football with him. Thank you to the parents who helped Santa wrap all the presents!



#### Singalong Celebration

Also linked to Christmas and to celebrate the end of term, we came together as a school community to sing festive songs and have a party. Our singalong included songs in Yoruba, Spanish and Arabic. Our families shared festive refreshments, played 'hook a bauble', visited the photo booth, made eco-decorations and danced together. It was an enjoyable time for all.



Thank you to all the parents who have come in to share songs, stories and different aspects of their work and culture – we really love and appreciate your visits, and you are always welcome.

## Visits and Visitors

### Burgess Park

We have Burgess Park close to the nursery so we can visit at different times of year. A group of children went to the park and joined in with the 'Autumngol' challenge, looking for different signs of Autumn and talking about what they could see. It was fun to explore and discover new things about nature. We are planning many more trips to the park next year.



### The Unicorn Theatre

Some children had the wonderful opportunity to see a live performance of 'How Does Santa Go Down The Chimney?' at The Unicorn Theatre. They enjoyed the show and experiencing live theatre together.



### Veolia

The children love being involved in recycling and recently named some of the new Southwark food waste vehicles. A couple of people from Veolia visited the nursery and told the children a story about recycling, did some recycling with the children and helped them to make models using recycled materials. We hope to see them again in the new year.



### Warm Clothes

Now the weather is colder, please make sure your child has enough clothes to keep warm. Encourage your child to practise putting on their coat, hat, scarf 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.

### 12 Days Wild



Please see the attached sheets to join in with our seasonal nature challenge linked to The Wildlife Trusts.

## 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 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2022) – the online primary school application has to be completed by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026** so please apply for schools as soon as possible. Click on the QR code below and follow the links to applying online for a primary school place:



If you need any help or support with the application process or finding out about local primary schools, please talk to your child's key person.

### Dates for your diary

The last day of this term is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

The **Christmas break is 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026** (inclusive), and there is a staff training day on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

Children return for the Spring term on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The **Parent Conference Day is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** – there will be **no nursery session** on this day, but appointments can be made to meet with your child's key person.

Everyone at The Grove wishes you a

