

## News and updates from Clouds, Rainbows and Stars – January/February 2026

### Our Core Books

Our core books are very important to us and the children love to hear these stories again and again, joining in with the words and acting them out, using props to retell the stories. These are the stories we have been focusing on this term:

#### **We're Going on a Bear Hunt**

This story is very familiar and the children have especially enjoyed joining in with the words and acting it out as they moved around the garden, swishing through long grass, splashing in puddles, squelching in mud, being blown in the sandpit snowstorm, stumbling through the 'woods', and tiptoeing through the tunnel cave to find the bear. They have also showed empathy for the bear at the end of the story, thinking about how he might be feeling and how they can help him.



#### **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**

We have shared different versions of the story of Goldilocks, including Ghanaian Goldilocks, where he eats fufu and palm nut stew instead of porridge. The children enjoyed eating porridge as a nice, warm treat at snack time.



#### **The Three Little Pigs**

The children have really enjoyed retelling this story using its memorable phrases, taking on different characters and running from 'the big bad wolf'. The story has also inspired lots of building with blocks, junk modelling and creating props to use when retelling the story with friends.



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

### Theatre Visits

In January, some of the children had the opportunity to visit The Unicorn Theatre to take part in an interactive performance of 'Squirrel'. The squirrel puppet explored its environment made up of props – shaped blocks, tubes, cones and balls (nuts) which were all used in various ways, making it very open ended and open to interpretation so the children could engage with the 'story' in whichever way they chose to.



### The Garden

We have been enjoying the garden during the Winter season. There have been opportunities to explore ice, make ice decorations and find out about freezing and melting with children making predictions about what they think will happen and why. It has mostly been a very wet, rainy season with lots of splashing in muddy puddles and digging to find worms in the mud kitchen. The leeks, onions, garlic, spinach, kale and chard are continuing to grow in our vegetable garden, and we look forward to more planting in the Spring.



### Big Schools Birdwatch 2026

We have enjoyed watching the different birds visiting the garden through the Winter. We took part in the Big Schools Birdwatch, recording the birds we could see in the garden in one hour. The children named the different birds and used tally marks to record how many of each kind they could see. To encourage more birds into the garden, they made different kinds of bird food – bird cakes and threaded cereal and fruit, as well as filling the bird feeders with seeds.



### Singalong and Festival Celebration

We had two great singalongs this term on 11<sup>th</sup> February, singing our core songs for this half-term: 'If You're Happy And You Know It' and two songs from Ghana – 'Obwisana' and 'Kye Kye Kule'. Thank you to everyone who came to sing with us and who stayed to share some of the treats connected with the different special days that are happening during the half-term break.



### Carnival/Mardi Gras

On 12<sup>th</sup> February, we had a mini Carnival with Salsa dancing and a Carnival parade around the garden. Some of our families will be celebrating Carnival/Mardi Gras on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The children decorated trolleys, trikes, hoops and instruments with colourful ribbons and families were encouraged to join in with the dancing and the parade. Thank you especially to the parents who taught everyone the dances.



### Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

It was Safer Internet Day on 10<sup>th</sup> February. We want everyone to be aware of how to stay safe online. We spend so much of our time online and our children have access to the internet via our phones, tablets and computers. It is important to monitor their safety when using these devices. Here is a link to a helpful leaflet that gives ideas about how to keep everyone safe online:

<https://www.childnet.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Keeping-under-fives-safe-online.pdf>

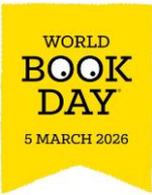
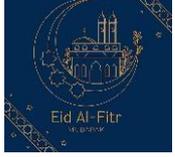


Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

[saferinternetday.org.uk](http://saferinternetday.org.uk)

### Festivals, Celebrations and Special Days

We have a number of festivals, celebrations and special days coming up next half term. If you celebrate any of these as a family, we would love to invite you into nursery to share something with the children, such as a dance, a custom or a story. There will be opportunities to be involved with most of these events over the coming weeks, so please look out for more information.

 <p><b>Ramadan</b> (begins 17<sup>th</sup> February)</p>	 <p><b>Lunar New Year</b> (begins 17<sup>th</sup> February)</p>	 <p><b>World Book Day</b> (5<sup>th</sup> March)</p>
 <p><b>British Science Week</b> (wb 9<sup>th</sup> March)</p>	 <p><b>Mothers' Day</b> (15<sup>th</sup> March)</p>	 <p><b>The Big Walk and Wheel</b> (fb 16<sup>th</sup> March)</p>
 <p><b>World Oral Health Day</b> (20<sup>th</sup> March)</p>	 <p><b>Eid Al-Fitr</b> (19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March)</p>	 <p><b>Easter</b> (5<sup>th</sup> April)</p>

### Additional Dates for your diary

The half-term break is from **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February**. Children return on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**.

We have our termly **Parent Conference meetings** on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** – this is an opportunity to talk to your child's key person about their learning and progress. There will be no nursery session on this day.

We break up for the Easter holiday on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**