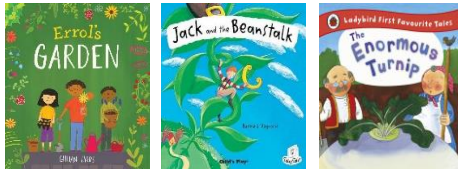


News and updates from Clouds, Rainbows and Stars – February/March 2026

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 and growing vegetables to reflect the season when we plan what we will grow and begin planting seeds. 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 what we will grow, including potatoes, sweetcorn, carrots, pumpkins, peas, beans and herbs.



We have begun preparing and planting some of these seeds and will continue to plant more seeds and seedlings as the season continues. The children have also been looking after the vegetables that have been growing all Winter and tasting them in the garden. We even picked some of the kale to make kale chips!

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

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

Growing Packs

As the children enjoy growing seeds and caring for the plants at the nursery, we have provided 'Growing Packs' for all families to do some gardening together at home over the break. There are information sheets with ideas for growing seeds; some bean, sunflower, cress and wildflower seeds; some soil; and lolly sticks to make plant labels. We would love to know about your planting adventures!



World Book Day

This year World Book Day was an extra special day for sharing our love of books as it is also the National Year of Reading. We enjoyed sharing stories and information books throughout the nursery. There were opportunities to make props for stories, engage in creative activities linked to stories, and use information books to find out more about topics of interest inside and outside. Many parents joined libraries and took leaflets about events in local libraries. Children enjoyed choosing books to take home from the book giveaway. We had a sign-up sheet for The Grove bookbags so that children will be able to take home books regularly from our pop-up library by the gate on the decking. We ended the morning and afternoon with the staff acting out the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'.



Sustainability

The children have continued their sustainability journey this half term. In addition to regularly recycling and composting, here are some of their achievements:

- The children entered a competition to choose the names of some of the new food waste vehicles in Southwark in the Autumn and three of these names were chosen. Some children had the opportunity to meet 'Tummy Tron' and see him at work, recycling their food waste to turn into electricity and fertiliser.



- We made our own plant pots out of an old cardboard box by soaking the cardboard and shaping it around wooden blocks. We have planted seeds in these pots.



- We have taken part in The Big Walk and Wheel fortnight promoting active and sustainable travel. We have completed nearly 500 sustainable journeys and are currently 8th best in London and 31st in the country. Thank you for keeping our air cleaner!

British Science Week

We celebrated British Science Week with a different focus each day linked to STEM, including a family activity day. There were lots of opportunities for the children to explore and observe different aspects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, make predictions and test their ideas. Here are some of the activities the children enjoyed:

- Exploring gravity and capacity 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.
- Exploring forces and magnetism, finding out what magnets do when they come into contact with different materials and each other.
- Investigating light and dark by exploring different light toys and playing with shadows.



- Understanding that cooking can also involve mathematics and science through seeing the way that yeast causes the dough to rise when making bread and how churning milk can make it into butter.
- Sorting out the recycling into paper and cardboard and plastic, and using these recycled materials to make something new.

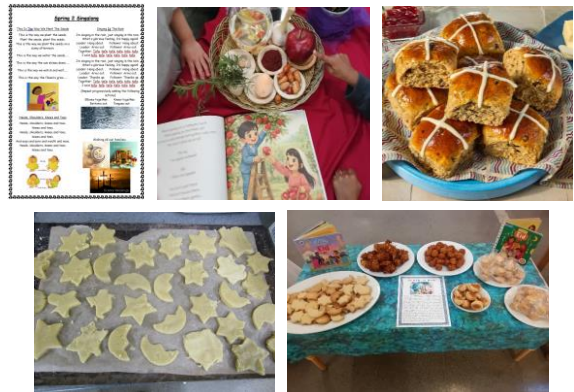


- Exploring nature by doing bug hunts, making bird feeders, planting seeds and exploring the different size and shape of seeds in fruit.
- Making seed balls by rolling compost and wildflower seeds in some clay. The seed balls were left to dry and then put into paper bags to be sold to raise money for a local environmental charity. The children said that they wanted to help animals, especially cows, and so the money will go towards the work at Surrey Docks Farm. The children sold the seed balls at the singalong and raised over £16!



Special Days

Many of the children have been celebrating special days with their families and have talked about their experiences at nursery. Some have been observing the month of Ramadan and have celebrated Eid al-Fitr; some have been celebrating Nowruz, the Persian New Year and first day of Spring; and some will soon be celebrating Easter. It is so good to share our experiences as a school community. We ended the term with all our families joining us for a singalong and it was an opportunity to share food and think about these festivals and special days. Thank you to all the parents who have shared photos, experiences and special food with us.



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 enjoyed playing Springo! in the nursery garden and you can play at home too.



Dates for your diary

Children break up on **Friday 27th March**
 The **Easter break** is **30th March-10th April** (inclusive).
 3s and 4s return on **Monday 13th April**
 2s return on **Tuesday 14th April**

There is a bank holiday on **Monday 4th May**.
 There will be **no nursery** on this day.

We know that many of our families are celebrating special festivals, so we would like to wish you

