

News and updates from Clouds, Rainbows and Stars – Summer Term 2026

Our Core Books

The children have enjoyed many books this term, including our core books;

'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' (trad)

The children enjoyed acting out this story in the garden, taking turns to be the troll and the goats moving under and over the climbing frame bridge. They also made bridges with large and small wooden blocks inspired by photos of real bridges.



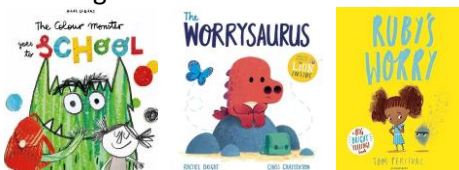
'Mr. Gumpy's Outing' by John Burningham

The children retold this story using props and puppets, with different voices for the animals in the boat. They made boats and other vehicles with loose parts and construction kits. They enjoyed lots of water play in the garden, watering plants and finding ways to collect water. This was particularly popular as the weather has been so hot.



'The Colour Monster Goes To School' by Anna Llenas

We have been sharing stories about going to school and transitions and how this makes us feel. The children have lots of different feelings at the moment, and books such as 'The Colour Monster Goes To School' and 'Ruby's Worry' encourage us to talk about how we feel.

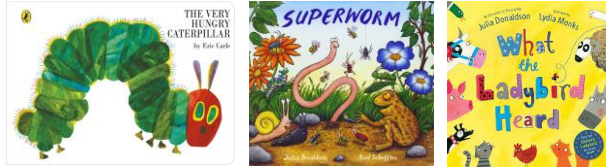


For more information about the children's learning, please visit

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

More Core Books and the Garden

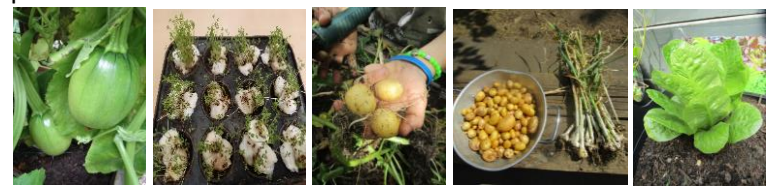
Some of our core books were connected with creatures in the garden: 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle, and 'Superworm' and 'What The Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson.



The children loved listening to these stories and joining in with retelling them using puppets and props. They have dug for worms, watched how snails move, and looked for ladybirds, woodlice and caterpillars. Blossom and flowers have provided nectar for the butterflies, hoverflies and bees. The children have been learning information about these different creatures and their lifecycles. We have also had blue tits nesting in one of the nest boxes and a family of foxes living in the garden.



Growing and caring for plants continues to be an important part of the learning that happens at The Grove. We planted seeds and seedlings, including sunflowers, nasturtiums, gladioli and other flowers, and vegetables including potatoes, onions, garlic, leeks, radishes, beetroot, beans, lettuce, sweetcorn, chard, kale, carrots, tomatoes, cress and we are even trying to grow sweet potatoes. The children love to water the plants and comment on what they can see, noticing new flowers and vegetables as they emerge. We have harvested potatoes and leeks to make potato salad for snack time.



30 Days Wild

The children took part in '30 Days Wild', an initiative from the Wildlife Trusts encouraging people to do one wild thing for nature every day in the month of June. The challenges included helping wildlife, such as feeding the birds; using our senses to explore nature; learning about wildlife practically and in books; and being creative with nature, such as making ice mandalas.



Glengall Wharf Garden Chickens

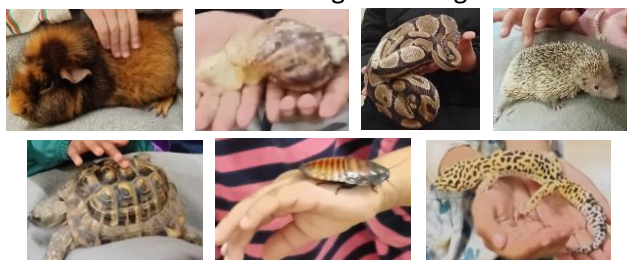
Some children visited the rescue chickens at Glengall Wharf Garden. They were able to feed the chickens with rice, watermelon and cherries, and could hold a chicken if they wanted to. They collected some of the eggs that had just been laid and later made cakes with them. It was a very enjoyable and enriching experience.



To visit the chickens or for more information about the garden: <https://glengallwharfgarden.org.uk/>

Animal Encounters

The children had a very special experience when Animal Encounters came to visit the nursery. They met guinea pigs, giant snails, a python, a tenrec, a tortoise, cockroaches and a leopard gecko. The children could hold the animals and ask lots of questions about them, as well as share their amazing knowledge.



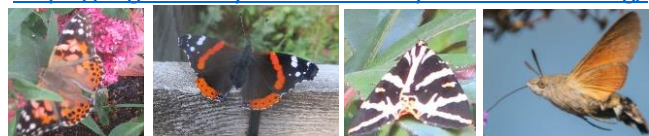
Caterpillars and Butterflies

One of our families kindly gave us some caterpillars for Eid so that the children could watch the butterfly life cycle. They started as tiny caterpillars but grew very quickly, shedding their skins several times before making chrysalides. The children made observations and predictions, and responded creatively. We put the chrysalides in the net and soon the painted lady butterflies emerged. The children enjoyed holding and releasing the butterflies in the vegetable garden.



There are many butterflies and moths around at the moment, so why not join in The Big Butterfly Count 2026 from 17th July to 9th August. Record all the butterflies you see in 15 minutes and add your results to the Butterfly Conservation website or app:

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>



Windrush Day

We marked Windrush Day by reading stories, tasting food, listening to music and playing games from the Caribbean. Gloria came to talk about her experiences of living in Guyana, showing the children photos, food and her doll. The children spoke about what is special about their families.



Paramedic and Police Visits

One of our parents, a paramedic, came to tell the children about his work driving an ambulance and helping sick and hurt people. The children learned about the equipment he uses, and had lots of questions to ask and comments to share.

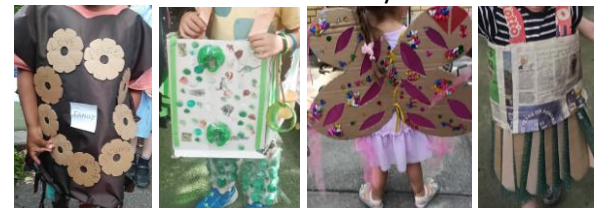


The children also had a visit from the police and were able to learn about the uniform and equipment that a police officer needs, and some children even sat in the police car.



Sustainable Fashion Show and Garden Party

We have had a wonderful year together full of exciting learning and great opportunities. We ended the year with a special celebration focusing on sustainability. Claudeth had the idea of holding a sustainable fashion show, where all the clothes would be upcycled using recycled materials. The clothes and costumes were amazing and we would love to thank all our wonderfully creative families.



We would like to wish all our families a happy summer and our leavers a wonderful time in their new schools. Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support and generosity this year. We look forward to more adventures together in the new year.