



Curriculum News - July 2023

It's been a busy half term for our children. Lots of exciting learning has taken place across the curriculum. Look at what we've been up to.

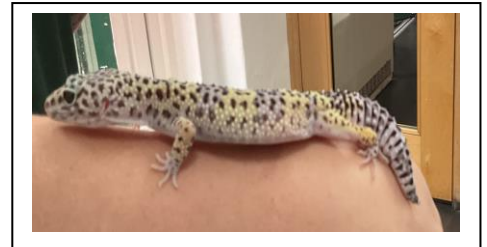
Communication & Language

This half of term, we have focused on reading and understanding information from non-fiction texts and using subject specific language linked to our main topics of space, superheroes, butterflies and art. The children have really absorbed the learning around lifecycles and butterflies and have become very good at explaining the lifecycle of a butterfly. We had Art Fortnight, where we concentrated on Impressionist artists, such as Van Gogh and Monet. We discussed the techniques the painters used and how the paintings made us feel. The children felt the paintings made them feel "calm" and "happy" and were "amazing" to look at.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We have been investigating and encouraging a sense of awe and wonder in the natural world around us. The release of the butterflies into the garden, helped draw out this awe and wonder, especially as we were lucky enough to see a butterfly emerge from its chrysalis, with dampened wings to then slowly fly away.

During June we were visited by Wild Science Mobile Zoo. We were given the opportunity to touch, stroke and hold the animals. We had to be very gentle and considerate when doing this, as not to scare the animals. We were visited by a chinchilla, an African Land Snail, a leopard gecko, a snake and a tree frog.



Physical Development

During the penultimate week, we had a Superhero Training day. This was so much fun! We worked in teams to achieve our goals. We used our superhero powers to lift, carry and transport equipment around the garden. In class, we have been continuing to handle tools, objects, and construction materials safely. We have discussed the need for a variety of different foods to keep us healthy and continued to develop our balance and coordination through activities, such as yoga.

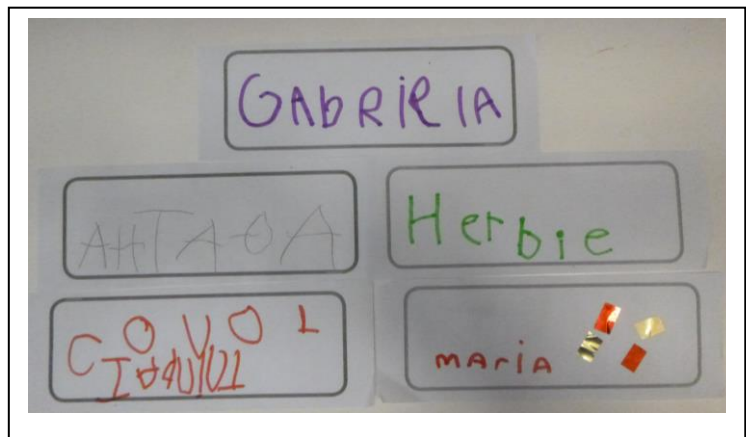
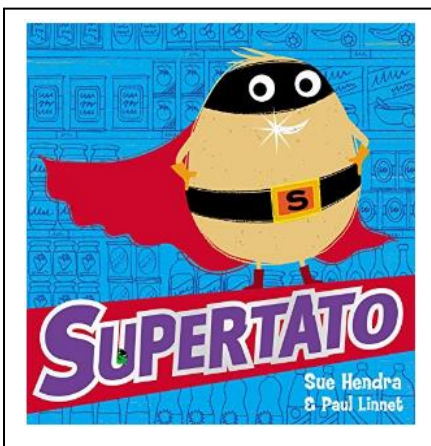


Literacy

We have continued to focus on using our fine motor skills to mark make and write our names. Our work during listening time has also contributed to greater phonic awareness when looking at the letter sounds in our names. The children have shown a real keenness in wanting to write their names and other simple words. Some of the children are beginning to blend spoken letter sounds together to say consonant, vowel consonant words, such as cat, dog and rug.

We have read a wealth of information and storybooks linked to our butterflies, Impressionism, space and superhero topics. The children have especially loved listening to Supertato stories. For our friends that are moving onto new schools, we have been looking at stories and books about transition and change.

We wish them all the very best in their new schools!!



Mathematics

In Mathematics, we have been exploring 3D shapes and their properties. The children have built using 3D recycled materials and built structures using small and large wooden blocks. To help develop an understanding of distance, there has been discussion about journeys to our new schools.

Linked to our topic on butterflies, we have been matching images of butterfly wings and looking closely at symmetry and what makes something symmetrical.



Expressive Arts and Design

In Expressive Arts and Design, there has been lots of lovely role-play and small world play, with the children taking on different roles related to space and superheroes. Superhero Day was especially exciting. We had so many happy superheroes talking about their special superpowers.

There have been extended conversations about Impressionist painters and paintings. We used the interactive whiteboard to virtually walk through famous paintings like Claude Monet's, A Bridge Over a Pond of Water Lilies.

The children used a range of mark making tools to re-create and experiment with Impressionist art. Toothbrushes, sponges, cotton buds and paint brushes were used.



Understanding the World

Our care and concern for living things have included looking after the plants in the garden. The children did a great job of looking after and planting their London Children's Flower Society seeds. We were all impressed by the plants brought in to be judged.

We celebrated Swedish Midsomer by singing Smar Grodorna and taking part in Midsomer activities, such as making flower crowns and decorating and dancing around a pole. We celebrated our community on open day with a range of special and fun activities. Thank you for all the donations. You helped make it a success!!

