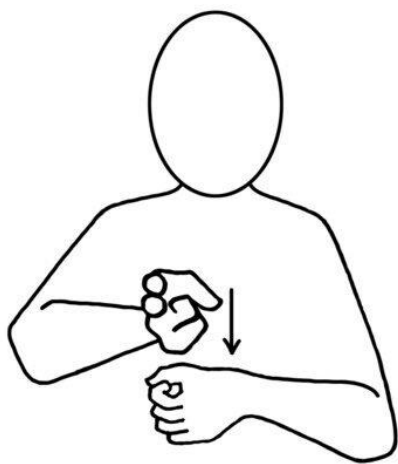
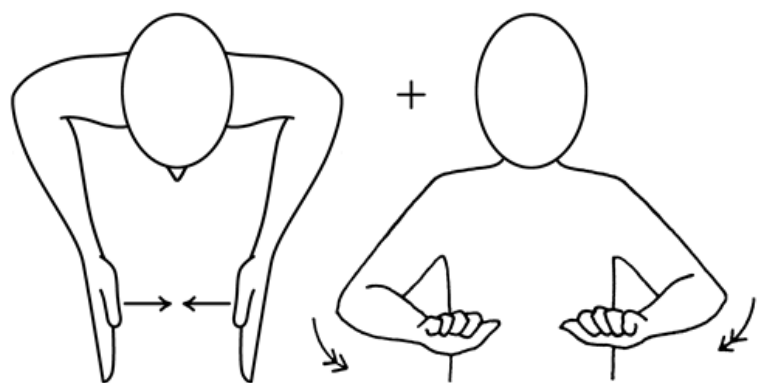


New Life

Summer 2026



Egg



Chick



Caterpillar



Flutter hands and move them slightly upwards

Butterfly

Our children have been really interested in our core story 'Handa's Hen'. The story linked with the children's interest in animals and with us receiving the living eggs later in the half term.

The story had a hen which went missing, only for it to be found with ten chicks. This led us to discuss where chicks came from.

During group time we learnt more information about the chicks from books including the life cycle from egg to chicken. We learnt special words such as hen, rooster, incubator, comb and rattle.

Children had the opportunity to observe the eggs and learn about how they were kept warm in the incubator. Some lucky children even got to see some of the eggs hatch!

We observed the chicks as they hatched and noticed how they were 'wet' at first and that the males and females were different colours. Once they were a day old the chicks moved into the brooder box where they could eat and drink. Some of the children helped with cleaning the chicks out, they changed their bedding and gave them food and fresh water. As the chicks got older the children learnt how to care of the chicks and they were able to hold them in the classroom. We talked about how the chicks had changed over time. We noticed they had grown and how their wings were developing and changing to feathers.

Links to EYFS

Communication

Use gestures like waving and pointing to communicate.

Reach or point to something they want while making sounds.

Copy your gestures and words.

Constantly babble and use single words during play.

Use a wider range of vocabulary.

Use longer sentences of four to six words.

Ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them.

Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives.

Physical

Pass things from one hand to the other. Let go of things and hands them to another person, or drops them.

Develop manipulation and control.

Explore different materials and tools.

Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.

Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.

Show a preference for a dominant hand.

Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.

Literacy

Pay attention and responds to the pictures or the words.

Repeat words and phrases from familiar stories.

Ask questions about the book. Makes comments and shares their own ideas. Understand the key concepts about print:

- print has meaning

- print can have different purposes

- the names of the different parts of a book

Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.

Knows that information can be retrieved from books and computers.

Understanding the World

Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.

Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.

Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.

Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.

Plant seeds and care for growing plants.

Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.

Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.

Know that there are different countries in the world

Explore the natural world around them.

Draw information from a single map.

On Monday the eggs arrived at nursery.



The man brought and incubator a brooding box and 10 eggs.



We added water to the tray at the bottom to keep the incubator at the correct temperature.

The children went to look at the eggs every day. On Wednesday the first chick hatched, by Friday all the chicks had hatched.





Once the chicks were a day old, we transferred them to the brooding box, the chicks grew really fast. We had 8 boys and 2 girls.

Once the chicks were strong enough the children all had a turn at holding them.



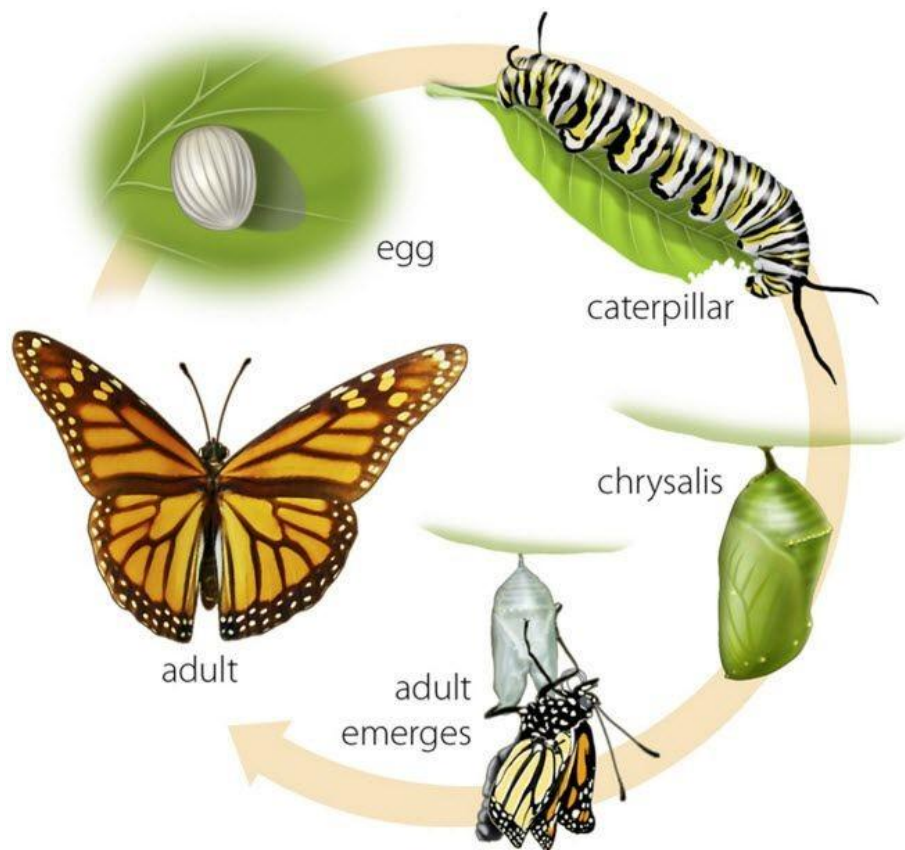
The chicks were soft and fluffy.

A's Daddy held the chick.

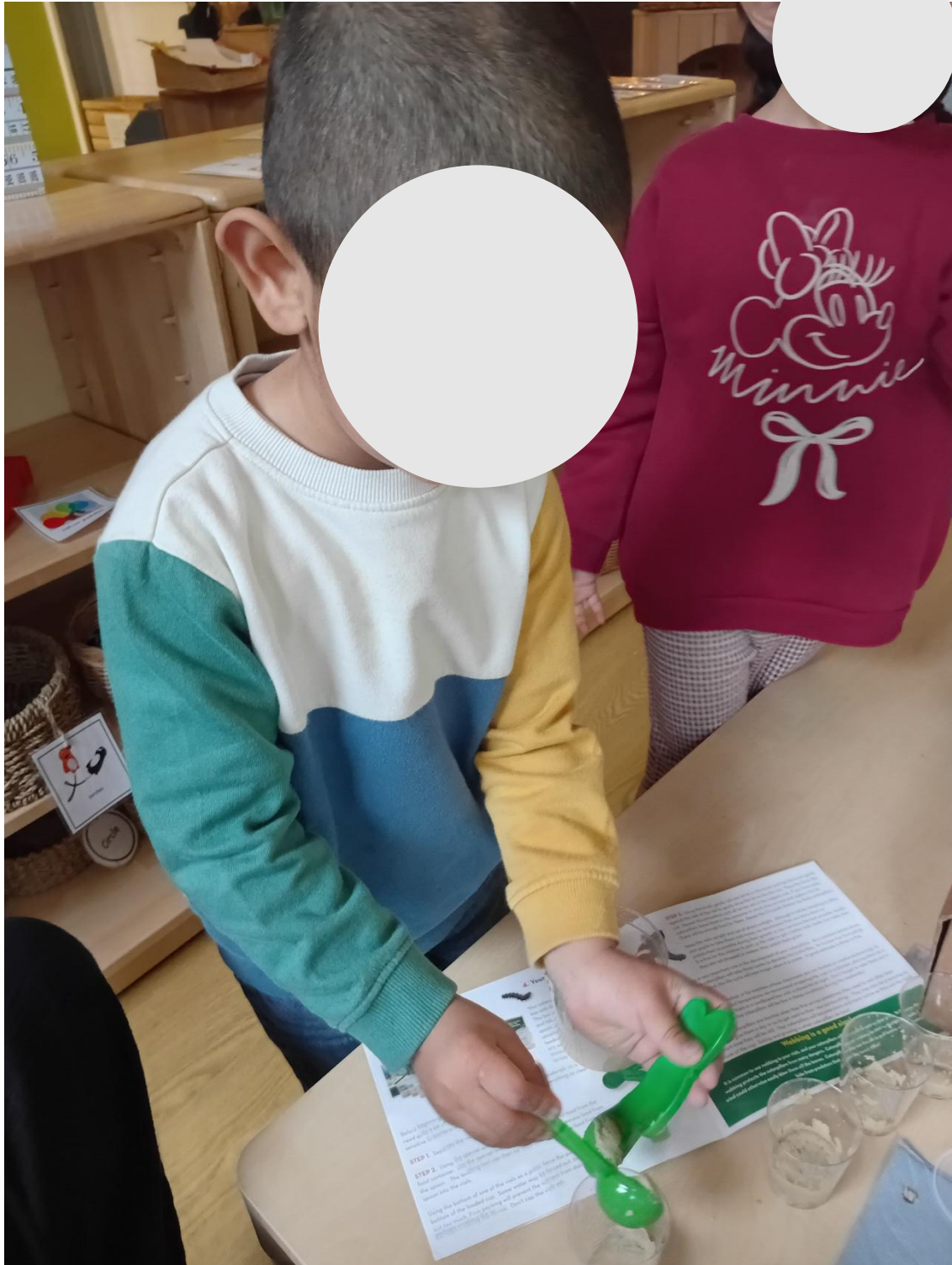


In nursery we also had the opportunity to take care of some caterpillars and learn all about how they turn into butterflies.

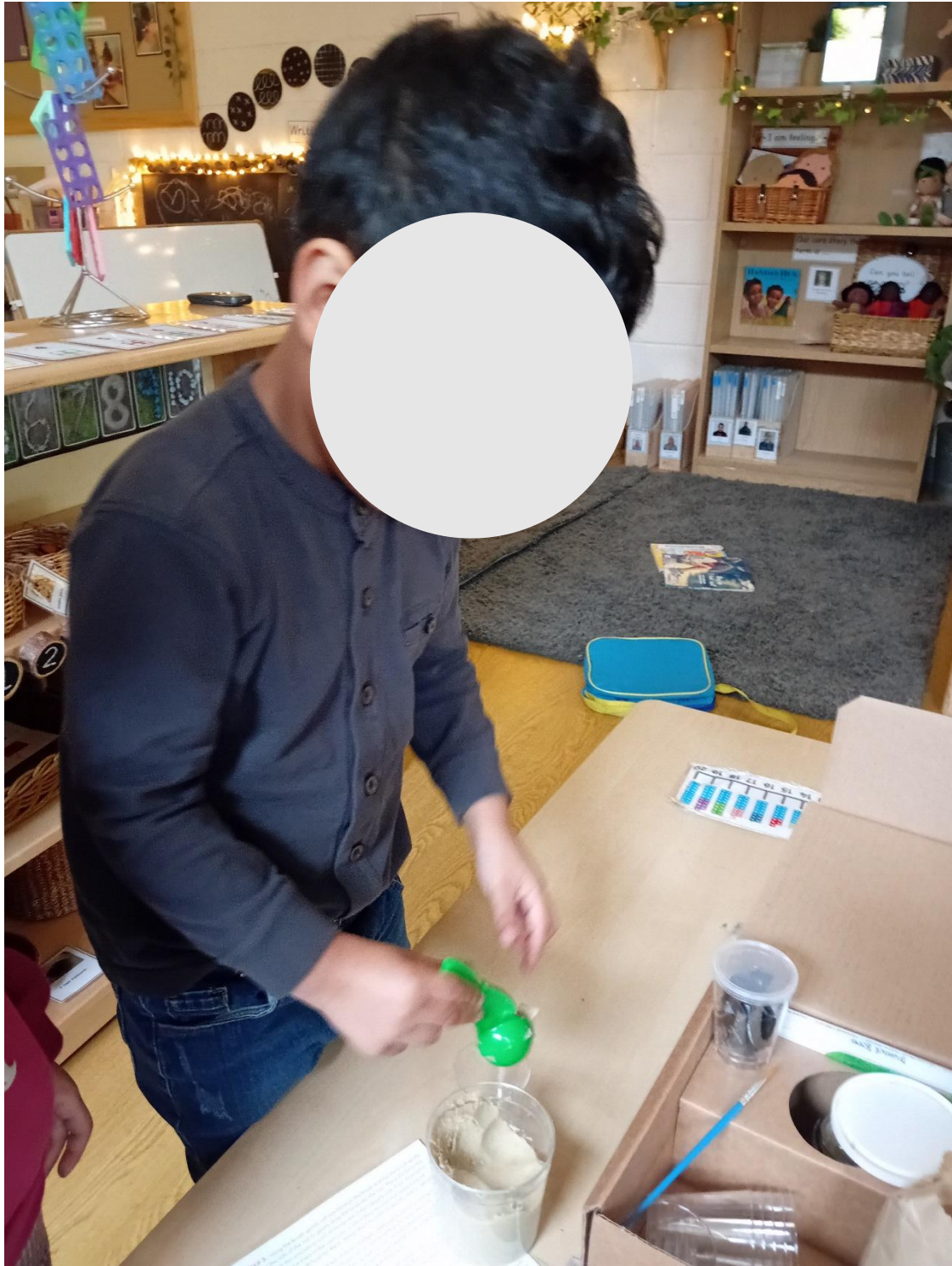
Find out what we did on the next page.



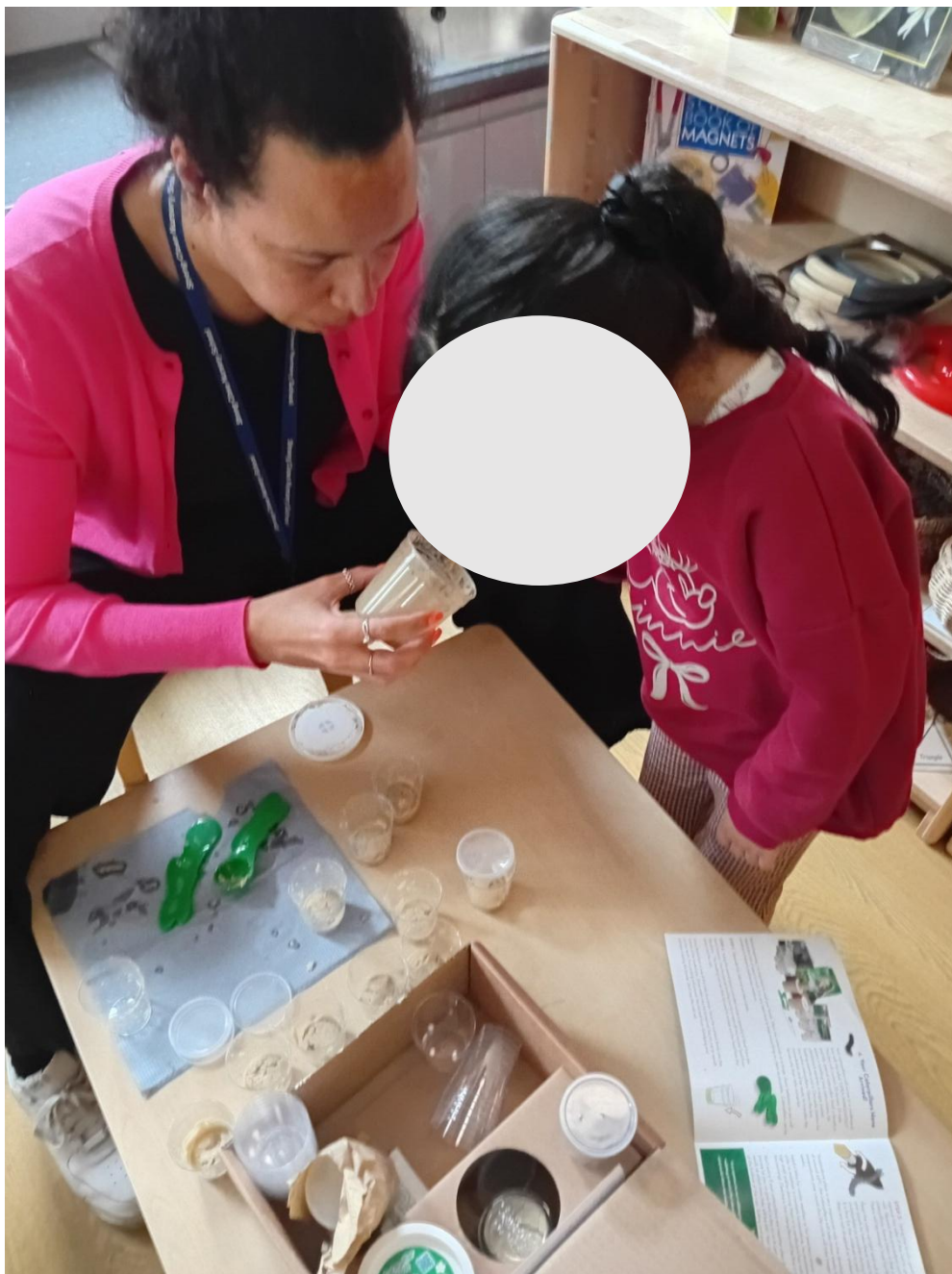
First, we scooped the food into each pot for the caterpillars.



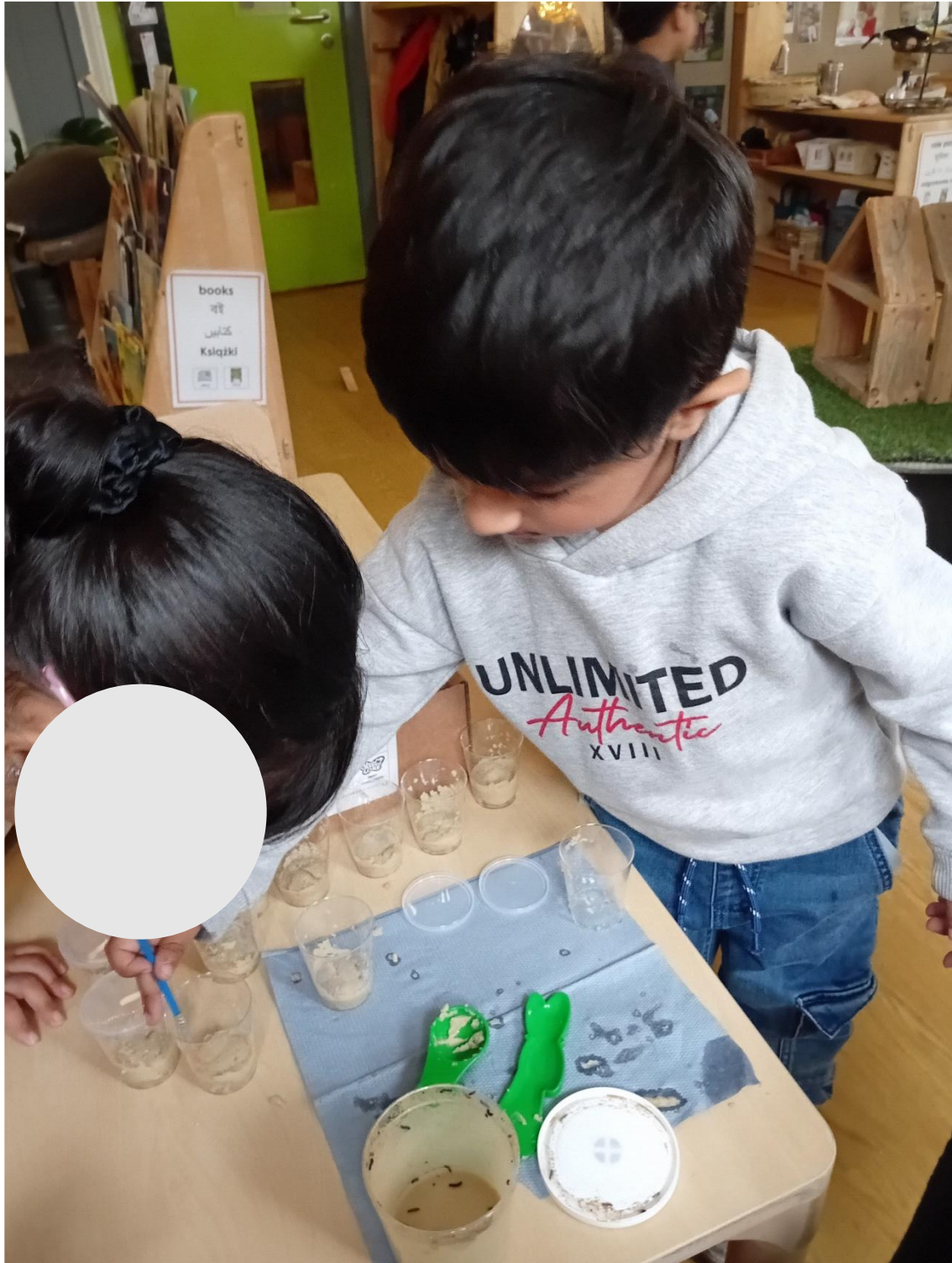
We had to squish the food flat using a small pot.



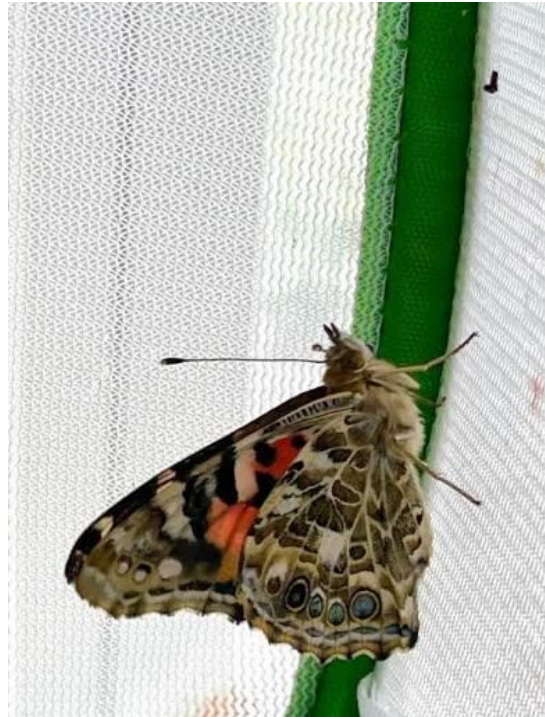
Next, we had to carefully put three caterpillars in each pot using a small brush. This was very tricky as they kept wriggling.



A was so gentle when picking up the caterpillars with the small brush.



We put the caterpillars in our classrooms and were able to look at them each day and see how they changed over time.



They formed into a chrysalis and once they popped out, we put some oranges in the bottom of the net so the butterflies could feed. Once they were strong enough, we let them out onto the field.

We extended our learning about new life and moved onto exploring plants and how they grow from a seed. First, we learnt how to plant our own seeds using soil and different tools and also how to care for them.

We had help from our gardener John who taught us lots of new information about fruits and vegetables and every week we worked together in our allotment.

I filled her pot with soil and then put a few seeds in, then she scooped some more soil on top of the seeds.



Here is Z planting some peas, afterwards she asked if she could do some more.



Once all the seeds had been planted, we took them to the green house so they could germinate and start to grow.



Z watered all the seeds to help them grow. At the green house they would get lots of warmth and light.



J collected water from the water butt to water the seedlings.



During our visit to the allotment with John, we did some gardening. The children watered the field beans, picked them, and then started podding them.



At group time we talked about the raspberries that we picked and then at snack time we all had a try.



We collected some more raspberries from the allotment and put them into a bowl to take back to nursery.





We also collected some beans. We took them to the kitchen for Mary to use in her cooking so we can have them for lunch.



We helped John to pick the beans from the allotment, we then sat and helped to pick all the beans out of the pods and place them in a bowl.



Picking beans out of the pods was so much fun. We even had the new children transitioning from red room joining to help us.



We also collected some lettuce and gave them to Mary in the kitchen.



We also picked some raspberries during group time. The next day P asked “**Can we get some more raspberries**”.



Look at our lovely lettuce we picked with John.



Our core story during Summer 2 was 'Luna Loves Gardening' which fit perfectly with our interest in growing and helping to look after things. We were able to learn the characters names in our story and remember which part of the world some of the different vegetables came from.

See what fun things we did during group time to extend our knowledge even further!



After introducing the story, we were able to look at our globe and world map. We talked about what a globe was and pointed out to the children the oceans and land. Some children knew that they lived in Keighley and some knew the street they lived on.

We showed the children the United Kingdom where we live and discussed some other countries and how we could get to them e.g., aeroplane, ship. Some of the children had been to Pakistan so we found it on the map and some children remembered they went on an aeroplane as it is far away.



We listened to the story and discussed where all the different vegetables came from e.g., Potatoes came from South America. We then looked on our world map to find South America.



Next, we took turns at looking at some of the vegetables in our story- there were Carrots, Beetroot and Potatoes.

“I like carrots,” said Y.

“I not had beetroot,” said E.

