



Gisburn Road Community Primary School

Autumn Term 2 – Nov to Dec 2025



WELCOME TO ALBERTINE OWLETS



We hope that you had a good break and are ready for the run up to Christmas. The children have really settled well into their Pre-school class and we look forward to the exciting term ahead. This term is a time of many magical events and we will embrace them with the children and use them as a way to inspire their learning!

Remember to keep up to date with all the activities on our school Face Book page and the class page on the website. Any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me at the Pre-school door or via the cohort email address albetineowlets@gisburnroad.com

Thank you, Miss Prior and Mrs Dyson.

What will we be learning this Term?

Our theme at Pre-school this first half term is going to be 'Let's Celebrate'. This will involve being imaginative and having lots of creative, festive fun. Learning will take place both indoors and outdoors and as always will be based upon very practical and hands on activities. There will be many opportunities for learning in each of the seven areas of the EYFS, as outlined in more detail below.

Communication and Language- The children will be developing their communication skills by playing many listening games, learning rhymes and songs and participating in circle time activities in their key worker groups. They will be encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings as a valued member of our Pre-school. We will be learning a 'word of the day' everyday! We will be modelling speaking in full sentences and helping the children to do the same. Children will have the opportunity to share items from home with the whole class. Listening skills will be improved further to enable children to maintain focus and attention for longer periods. Explore the links below for ideas on games you can play at home to help.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/3-to-4-year-old-child-development>

<http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/early-years/>

Personal, Social and Emotional Development- Within this area, children will be continuing their learning to follow basic rules and boundaries within the Pre-school setting (which they are already doing very well at!). Children will be working in pairs, small groups to carry out many activities to encourage teamwork and sharing. We will be discussing feelings through role-play and stories. We will model sharing and being kind and working as a Pre-school team. Children will be praised and positively rewarded for following rules and sharing. To help your children in this area you could play games at home: - snap, snakes and ladders etc and teach them that it is okay to lose sometimes. (Make sure that sometimes you win).

Some other useful ideas on the website below:-

<http://www.ichild.co.uk/tags/browse/370/Personal-Social-Emotional-Development-3-5-Years>

Physical Development- During this half term we will be learning practising getting our coats on and off by ourselves (please practise this at home too). We will help children with zips/buttons etc. We will be developing our balancing skills within PE lessons: - standing on one foot, hopping and running whilst negotiating space. Children will also be provided with lots of activities involving cutting with scissors to improve their control. We will also have lots of fun learning short dance routines linking to winter and Christmas.

More practical ideas to improve your child's physical development below: -

<https://www.purplemash.com/sch/barnoldswick>

<https://family.co/blog/the-child/parent-guide-physical-development-early-years/>

<https://www.sparklebox.co.uk/topic/creative-arts/art-and-design/cutting-skills.html>

Mathematics – In Maths, the children will be representing numbers using their fingers, marks and pictures. We will be looking at sets of objects and making children aware that numbers identify how many objects are in that set. We will compare amounts of objects within a set, which has more, less, the same amount. Within the environment, we will be encouraging children to be curious about numbers and to ask questions about them.

Some great interactive games for Maths are: -

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics/numeracy>

<https://nrich.maths.org/early-years>

Literacy- We will be learning literacy skills through reading the books 'The Jolly Postman' by Allan Ahlberg and 'The Gruffalo' and The Gruffalo's Child by Julia Donaldson. We will develop the skill of joining in with stories through talk for writing techniques, where children use actions when verbally retelling a story. Children will become more aware of rhyme through reading the stories and other festive poems and songs. Children will be provided with many opportunities to mark make in a variety of ways to help them to start distinguishing between the marks that they make. We will also be exploring recognising signs, advertising logos and their own names. You could go on a logo hunt whilst out and about, from shop signs to Paw Patrol. We will teach daily Phonics sessions also focusing on Phase 1. Ideas online to help your child with their reading and writing development are listed here: -

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/#3>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/3-5-years>

Understanding the World – This half term we will be exploring the season of Winter and ask questions about the natural world and the changes that Winter brings. We will recognise and describe special times from Bonfire Night to Christmas. Children will be given opportunities to talk about their own experiences of Winter. We will investigate ice cubes and snow. We will look at the effects of the cold weather on our environment. Children will learn about the history of Bonfire Night and how to stay safe. We will also enjoy reading the Nativity story. Try some links below to support our learning:-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/understanding-the-world>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=cold>

<https://www.cbtrust.org/learning-zone/early-years-age-0-4/>

Expressive Arts and Design – With Winter providing many opportunities to be creative, children will be making party hats, cards, decorations, bonfire art etc. We will be experimenting with colours and how we can change them. We will be providing various materials so that children can begin to use representations to communicate, saying 'that's me, that's a tree' etc. Children will be using make believe by pretending in the role-play area. We will be showing an interest in how musical instruments sound and creating music to match our songs and feelings. Use the links below for more creative ideas and resources.

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/home-early-years/early-years-expressive-arts-and-design>

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Dates to remember:

Odd Sock Day Thursday 13th November

Children in Need Friday 14th November-Children to dress in yellow and spots

Rock Kidz Event- Dress as a rock star Wednesday 19th November

Parents evening Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th November- 3.30pm-6.00pm

Non-Uniform Friday 21st November- Children to exchange uniform for sweet jars

Christmas Market at School Friday 28th November 6pm-8pm

Pre-school & Reception Nativity @ 10.30am and 4pm Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd December

Party Hat Making Day Monday 8th December (Made in school)

Christmas Jumper Day Thursday 11th December

Christmas Panto in School Friday 12th December

Xmas Dinner Day and Party Day Tuesday 16th December

School closes for Christmas Holidays 19th December @ 1.30pm