



Gisburn Road Community Primary School

Spring Term I – January to February 2026



HAPPY NEW YEAR ALBERTINE OWLETS!

We hope that you have had a lovely, restful Christmas holiday? We are very excited about the term ahead and have many new exciting experiences planned for the children. Remember to keep up to date with our school Facebook page and the class page on the website. You can send children's Home Learning or pictures via the cohort email address of albertineowlets@gisburnroad.com

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 'Amazing Animals'. This involve exploring many different types of animals from household pets to wild animals. As always, the children will learn through creative, fun activities indoors and outdoors. All learning will link to the seven areas of the EYFS, as outlined in more detail below.

Communication and Language- The children will be developing their communication skills by listening to stories with increasing detail and recalling characters and main events. They will be joining in with stories and repeating key parts of stories and rhymes. We will be focusing on children following simple directions and instructions, within the pre-school setting.

Explore the links below for ideas on games you can play at home to help.

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

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/follow-directions-game-for-preschoolers/>



Personal, Social and Emotional Development- Within this area children will be working on the children being aware of their own feelings, and knowing that some actions can hurt other children's feelings. We will be encouraging children to be able to wait their turn and to tolerate delay for what they want. We will be developing their confidence when communicating with adults and their friends. All this will be done in a variety of ways from circle time to games, to group challenges and story times.

Some other useful ideas on the website below: -

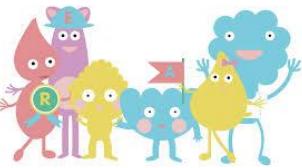
<https://www.kidssoup.com/activity/emotions-and-feelings-preschool-activities-games-and-lessons>

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



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Physical Development- During this half term we will be practising getting our outdoor coats on and off, with little help. We will be observing the effects of physical movement on our bodies. Children will also be continuing to work with one-handed tools, like scissors. Children will be encouraged to hold their pencil correctly (between thumb and first finger) and to copy some letters from their own name. We will be getting very active on the school climbing frames within PE, focusing on confident and safe climbing with alternate feet. So next time you're at the park please encourage your children to explore climbing frames and ladders.

Advice on pencil control and useful physical activities below:-

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

<https://dayswithgrey.com/blog/activities-and-ideas-for-pencil-grip-toddler-preschool-kindergarten-tips/>



Mathematics – In Maths, the children will be using numbers within their play and encouraged to show curiosity by making comments or asking questions about numbers. We will focus on children recognising numbers 0 to 5 and looking at the first and last number in the sequence. We will be looking at measurement which includes weight and length of objects which will be used during literacy when looking at different animals. Outdoor provisions will look at weighing out 'animal foods' and creating life size scales of animals.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/mathsgames/3-5-years/measures>

<https://www.iknowit.com/lessons/a-measurement-heavier-lighter.html>



Literacy- We will be learning literacy skills through reading the books 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell and 'Rumble in the Jungle' by Giles Andreae. We will continue to develop the skills of joining in with stories through talk for writing techniques, where children use actions when verbally retelling a story. Children will be encouraged to join in with repeated refrains from the stories and to anticipate/guess key events and phrases within the stories and rhymes. Children will be asked to give more meaning to any marks or drawings that they make, with lots of positive encouragement to show them that their marks/writing are important. We will continue to teach daily Phonics sessions focusing on Phase 1, higher aspects.

Ideas online to help your child with their reading and writing development are listed here: -

<http://www.dearzooandfriends.com/>

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

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>



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Dear Zoo



Rod Campbell

He was too tall!
I sent him back.

Understanding the World – This half term we will still be exploring the world of animals from zoo animals, to wild animals, to pets. We will talk about things that we observe about the different animals. We will look at where animals come from and where they live. The children will be able to role-play being vets and they will learn about the responsibilities involved in having a pet. We might even have some special little visitors in pre-school! We will find out fascinating facts about different jobs linked to animals from zoo keepers to safari rangers. Try some links below to support our learning: -

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/animals/>

<https://www.ducksters.com/animals.php>



Expressive Arts and Design – We will be being very creative this term, using our animal theme to create patterns, mask and animal homes. The construction areas will provide opportunities for children to create and build animal enclosures or make animal models. We will be moving around like animals and responding to music linked to animals and their environments. We will be making our own music, tapping out simple repeated rhythms. Use the links below for more creative ideas and resources: -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bring-the-noise/eyfs-early-years-music/zhm7wty/>

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

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



Dates to remember:

School opens Monday 5th January

Closing date for Primary School Admissions Thursday 15th January

School closes Friday 13th February