



Gisburn Road Community Primary School Spring Term 1 – 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.

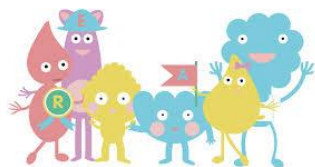
Some other useful ideas on the website below: -

<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://family.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/maths-games/3-5-years/measures>

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



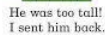
Literacy- We will be learning literacy skills through reading the books 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell and 'Rumble in the Jungle' by Giles Andreae. We will continue to develop the skills of joining in with stories through talk for writing techniques, where children use actions when verbally retelling a story. 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/>



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

