



Gisburn Road Community Primary School

Summer Term I – April to May 2026



WELCOME BACK ALBERTINE OWLETS!



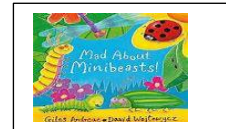
Welcome back to the summer term. We have been having such a fantastic time with our owlets that time has passed in the blink of an eye. This term will be even more exciting for our Pre-school children, as we learn all about the season of spring and minibeasts.

Any photographs, information or home learning that you would like to share with us about your child can be emailed to me at albertineowlets@gisburnroad.lancs.sch.uk
Have a look on the Pre-school Webpage and Facebook to see what we have been up to so far this year.

Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs Dyson and Miss Mount

What will we be learning this Term?

Our theme at pre-school this half term is 'Mad about Minibeasts'. The children will be spending lots of time in our outdoor area learning all about nature. We will explore the wonders of minibeasts through the seven areas of learning, as outlined in more detail below. We will even have some creepy crawly friends paying a visit to our classroom.



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 developing their understanding of prepositions such as 'under', 'on top', 'behind' by carrying out an action or selecting a correct picture. We will focus on children responding to simple instructions. We will be encouraging them to ask questions about why things happen and to give their own explanations.

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

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

Personal, Social and Emotional Development-

Within this area, children will be working on becoming confident to talk during carpet and circle time. Children will be expected to communicate freely about their home and community. They will be provided with responsibilities of carrying out small task around the classroom and praised for achieving them. They will be given small monitor roles from handing out snack to being in charge of tidying areas of the learning areas.

Physical Development- During this half term 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. For some children we will focus on forming letters correctly and writing their names independently too.

Advice on pencil control and useful physical activities below: -

<https://family.co/blog/the-child/parent-guide-physical-development-early-years/>
<https://handsonaswegrow.com/fine-motor-skills-activities/>



Mathematics – In Maths the children will be counting up to 5 actions, showing the correct number of fingers for the number 5 and rote count from 5 to 0. We will begin to look at number senses, recognising when groups have the same size have been made using different pairs of smaller groups. The children will be looking at subtraction and begin to understand the concept of removing one another from another. We will be looking at measurement- capacity, to find the contexts of more/ less of two items.

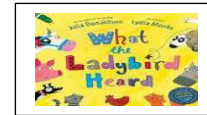
Some great interactive games for Maths are: -

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/ladybird-spots>
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=more%20or%20less>

Literacy- This term we are going to base our learning around the books 'Mad about minibeasts', 'Teeny weeny tadpole' and 'What the Ladybird Heard'. 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 questioned about the main events, characters and will be asked to predict story endings. Children will be encouraged to write initial sounds of words when labelling their work. We will continue to teach daily Phonics sessions focusing on Phase 1 Aspect 6 Voice Sounds.

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

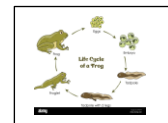
<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-2>
<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>



Understanding the World – This half term we will still be exploring the world of minibeasts. We will be learning facts about the different creatures, looking at their homes and their features. We will sort minibeasts and learn all about the life cycles of some of them, in particular the 'Frog'. Children will be encouraged to compare themselves to the insects, how are they different, the same?

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 – As always we will be as creative as we can from creating our own minibeast models and pictures, to moving and dancing like different minibeasts. Our role-play area will be a fruit and veg market stall for children to play shop, while learning about the variety of fruit and vegetables.

Use the links below for more creative ideas and resources:-

<https://littleowlsresources.com/minibeasts>
<https://resource-bank.scholastic.co.uk/resources/47437>



Key dates to remember:

Back to school: Monday 13th April 2026

Bank holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

Class Photos: Wednesday 6th May 2026

Creepy Crawly Roadshow: Wednesday 6th May 2026 10 am

School breaks for 1 week and 4 days: Friday 22nd May 2026

