Gisburn Road Community Primary School

Autumn Term 2 – November to December 2026





WELCOME TO LITTLE OWLS

We hope that you had a good break and are ready for the run up to Christmas. The children have settled extremely well into school life and into Reception class and we look forward to the exciting term ahead.

This half term we have a fun and festive term ahead along with many different celebrations along the way too. We will embrace each of them with the children and use them as a way to inspire their learning!

Remember to keep up to date with our school Facebook page. You can also share any out of school learning/activities with us via the cohort email address of littleowls@gisburnroad.lancs.sch.uk

If you would like to pass on any urgent information, I will be at the door each morning and evening but you can also contact the office on 812287 and Mrs Barwell will pass on any important information.

Mrs Heaton, Miss Anderson and Miss Mount

What will we be learning this Term?



Our theme in Reception this half term is going to be 'Bright Lights, Dark Nights'.
This will involve lots of creative and practical activities and plenty of festive fun. Learning will continue to 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 speaking in sentences about first hand experiences, answering who, what and why questions, extending vocabulary and asking questions. Communication and Language happens all of the time whilst children are busy learning through play. We have many different activities set up both indoors and outdoors to help with this. This is something you can really develop by talking to your child all of the time through the different stages of the day. E.g. whilst coming to and from school, whilst getting ready for school or bed, whilst having tea…



https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/resource-library-for-families/supporting-childrens-early-communication-skills/
https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/evidence-store/communication-and-language

Personal, Social and Emotional Development– Within this area children will be continuing their learning to follow basic rules and boundaries within the school setting (which they are already doing very well at!). Children will be working in pairs and small groups to carry out many activities to encourage teamwork and sharing. We will also be looking at strangers and safer strangers, different emotions we may have, kind and unkind behaviour and the effects of these behaviours on others. We will also be looking at the unit 'Celebrate' in our My Happy Mind scheme.



Some other useful ideas on the website below:-
https://myhappymind.org/programmes/family-programme/
https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/evidence-store/personal-social-and-emotional-development

Physical Development- During this half term we will be continuing to practise getting our coats on and off by ourselves and being able to fasten them (please practise this at home too). We will be developing a range of skills within PE lessons: -Travelling in different ways, balancing along a beam, throwing underarm, running and negotiating space, jumping off apparatus and landing on two feet and being able to catch a large ball. Children will also be provided with lots of activities involving cutting with scissors to improve their control. We will also be continuing in holding our pencils correctly to form letters for writing.

More practical ideas to improve your child's physical development below: -
https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/home-early-years/early-years-physical-development
https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/evidence-store/physical-development



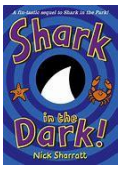
Mathematics – In Maths the children will be representing numbers using their fingers, marks and pictures. We will be looking at sets of objects and making children aware that numbers identify how many objects are in that set. We will compare amounts of objects within a set, which has more, less and the same amount. Within the environment, we will be encouraging children to be curious about numbers and to ask questions about them. We will be concentrating on numbers 6-10 and the concept of each number and what each number means and looks like in different ways. More ideas can be found here:-

https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years
https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks
https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics/numeracy
https://numbots.com/



Literacy- We will be learning literacy skills through reading many different story books in our 'Drawing Club' sessions. We will develop the skill of joining in with phrases in stories and learning lots of new vocabulary along with their definitions. Children will be provided with many opportunities to make marks and write along with reading too. We will be focusing on listening carefully for the sounds in words to be able to read and write them. The Phonics sessions that take place on a daily basis really helps with this too. Ideas online to help your child with their reading and writing development are listed here: -

https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/
https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/3-5-years
https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/
https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks



Understanding the World – This half term we will be exploring Light and Dark and the many different celebrations that take place during this half term. We will be asking questions about the natural world and the changes that Autumn/Winter brings. We will be looking closely at Light and Dark and what happens during the day and night time and comparing the similarities and differences. We will recognise and describe special times such as Halloween, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Diwali, Eid and Christmas. Children will be given opportunities to talk about their own experiences of these as well.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics



Expressive Arts and Design – With the celebrations providing many opportunites to be creative, children will be making a range of different crafting items throughout the term. These will include firework pictures, light and dark art work, party hats, cards, decorations, etc. We will be experimenting with colours and how we can change them to make them lighter and darker. We will be provinding various materials so that children can choose what they would like to use in their art work. The children will also be pretending in the role-play and small world areas and they will be learning a variety of songs leading up to our special 'Nativity' production.



THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **PE DAYS :** Reception have P.E each week. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school for those days (with names in all clothing please as we noticed in Autumn 1, we had many items with no names in).

- **Home Learning**: Will be provided each week and it will be stuck in the childrens Home Learning 'Weekend Workout' Book. This will include things such as spellings of tricky words, letter formation, number bonds and other related things (will start during this half term). These will come home each Thursday and be collected in on the following Thursday.

- **Reading**: Your child will be given a book to read with you every week. They are changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The children will need to continue to sound out and blend the words together in order for them to read the words independently. Some children may have two books at times if they need to work upon a particular letter sound they might not know. Please ensure you send the home reading book into school everyday so we can also listen to the children within school.

Thank you for your continued support