



Autumn Term I – September to October 2025



WELCOME TO SANDY OWLS



Welcome to Reception and our class Elf Owls. I hope that you had a super summer break and are ready for your first year here at Gisburn Road Primary School. We are looking forward to the journey ahead of us with lots of engaging and exciting learning experiences taking place every day.

You can keep up to date with our school FaceBook and the class page on the website. You can also share any out of school learning/activities with us via the cohort email address of sandyowls@gisburnroad.lancs.sch.uk I will respond to any emails on Thursdays. If you would like to pass on any urgent information, I will be at my classroom 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 'Fabulous Families'. This will be all about the children's family both in the house they live in and at other family members homes too. This will involve many creative and practical activities and plenty of fun ways of learning. 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. This area of learning is very important. Over the years, everywhere has seen such a huge difference between children starting school from previous years. As we know, technology is on the rise, which is brilliant in some ways but not in others. As children love playing on l pads, tablets and gaming stations a lot more than in the past this is having a huge impact on children's speech and language development. Therefore, going forward, we must ensure we have a balance of the two and we do not delay speech and language for the children. At home it is very important that you also develop this further 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. It may sound simple but research has shown that these daily chitchats are so beneficial and will help your child to understand more about language, and gain knowledge of new vocabulary and start to use it in their own conversations too. You can find more information here:

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

<https://www.teachearlyyears.com/learning-and-development/view/confident-communicators>



Personal, Social and Emotional Development– Within this area your child will be learning to follow basic rules and boundaries within the school setting. 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 our different emotions we may have, kind and unkind behaviour and the effects of these behaviours on others. We will also be looking at our new My Happy Mind scheme.

Some other useful ideas on the website below:-

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

<https://www.earlyyearsmatters.co.uk/our-services/school-and-nursery-improvement-partner/psed/>



Physical Development- During this half term we will be practising getting our coats on and off by ourselves and being able to fasten them (please practise this at home too). We will also be learning to get dressed and undressed for PE too. During PE 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 learning to hold 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://www.purplemash.com/sch/barnoldswick>

<https://www.earlyyearsmatters.co.uk/our-services/school-and-nursery-support/early-years-adviser/physical-development/>



Mathematics – In Maths the children will be focusing on numbers 1-5 and representing these numbers using their fingers, marks and pictures. We will be looking at the concept of each number and what each number means and looks like in different ways including being able to subitise (say without counting) these numbers. 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. We will be using lots of mathematical language too. 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://nrich.maths.org/early-years>



Literacy- We will be learning literacy skills through reading the book 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' by Mike and Carl Gordon. We will then be looking at many more stories through 'Drawing Club'. We will develop the skill of joining in with stories through 'Talk for Writing' techniques, where children use actions when verbally retelling the stories. 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, especially initial sounds in words to start with. 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 'All about Me'. This will include all about ourselves including body parts and senses. It will also include the history of me and where I have come from and we will be looking at similarities and differences between now and my past. Finally, we will be looking at where I live and the different houses that people live in.

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

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



Expressive Arts and Design –This half term we will be exploring the new creative area. We will be working with different media and experimenting how we can attach materials. We will be experimenting with colours and how we can change them to make them lighter and darker. We will be providing 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 along with learning a variety of nursery songs and dances.



THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **PE DAYS :** Reception have P.E each week. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school ASAP. They will need a small PE bag with black shorts, a white t-shirt and black pumps. Children in Reception class do not need trainers. We also keep PE bags in school for a half term and then send them home at the holidays, **(with names in all clothing please) PE will start week commencing 15th September.**
- **Home Learning:** Your child will start to receive some 'Weekend Workout' activities soon which will link to learning within school.
- **Reading:** Your child will be given a book to read with you each week. We change them every **MONDAY, WEDNESDAY** and **FRIDAY**. Can you look at the pictures and enjoy discussing the stories together allowing the child to lead as much as possible. The children will later start to receive books containing words which match our phonics lessons and once they are confident to speak in full sentences using some story language. The children will need to sound these out and blend them together in order for them to read the words independently (more information will follow for reading at home).
- **Parents in Class:** You will be invited into school to enjoy lunch with your child. This will be once the children have all had chance to settle into school life. More details will be sent out in due course.
- **Water bottles:** Please send your child to school with a water bottle each day with fresh water inside. You can buy a bottle holder from Skip 2 School that attaches to your child's book bag on the outside. This saves any books from getting wet and ruined inside the bookbag.
- **IMPORTANT:** Whilst waiting to come into school in a morning and then afterschool please could I ask that the children leave the toys where they are and you do not allow your children to play with them. This ensures they are all where they should be when we go outside for our learning and things don't get broken or lost. Thank you for your understanding.