



## Gisburn Road Community Primary School Spring Term 1 – January to February 2026



# WELCOME TO SANDY OWLS



Happy New Year and welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely break over Christmas and made some lovely family memories within the home. Roll on this half term and everything it will bring. This half term we shall be taking part and learning all about my favourite topic 'Pirates'.

Remember you can keep up to date with our school FaceBook. You can also share any out of school learning/activities with us via the cohort email address of [sandyowls@gisburnroad.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:sandyowls@gisburnroad.lancs.sch.uk)

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 'We're Going on a Journey' This will involve lots of creative and practical activities and plenty of pirate 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 continue to develop 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...

<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 children will be continuing their learning to follow basic rules and boundaries within the school setting and working together with others. We will also be looking at other rules, looking after others, animals and the environment. We will also be looking at internet safety and jobs in the community. 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 continuing to develop a range of skills within PE lessons: -Travelling with confidence and skill around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment. We will show increasing control of an object in pushing, patting, throwing, catching or kicking it. We shall also be building upon the skills we started to develop in autumn term too. Children will also be provided with more activities involving cutting with scissors to improve their control and we will also be continuing in holding our pencils correctly to form letters for writing words and sentences.

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



**Mathematics** – In Maths the children will continue to represent numbers using their fingers, marks and pictures on paper. 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 0-10 and the concept of each number and what each number means and looks like in different ways. This will include using 10s frame and the part-part whole model. 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 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. Some of these stories include: 'We're Going on a Treasure Hunt' and 'Shark in the Park' along with many more. 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 in sounding out and blending together to be able to read and write the words. The Phonics sessions that take place on a daily basis really helps with this too. This half term we will be starting on our Phase 3 sounds. 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 creatures under the sea, floating and sinking, map skills and different materials. We will also continue with the celebrations that take place during this half term such as Chinese New Year, Valentine's day and Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. We will be asking questions about the natural world and the changes that Winter brings. We will also be discussing similarities and differences between things we look at.

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



**Expressive Arts and Design** – This half term the children will be making a range of different crafting items throughout the term. These will include pirate people, boats, sea creatures and drawing and painting of real objects. We will be experimenting with colours and how we can change them and how we can make the different colours. 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 and they will be working together in making up their own stories.



#### **THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- **PE DAYS** : Reception have P.E this half term every week on **FRIDAY**. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school every day. (**With names in all clothing please as we noticed in the Autumn Term we had many items with no names in still**).
- **Home Learning**: Will be sent home for the children to complete. These may include things linked to letter formation, tricky words, phonic sounds linked to our phonic lessons and number work linked to our maths lessons. Sometimes children may be given different work to other children depending on individual needs. Please send back each **Thursday**.
- **Reading**: Your child will be given a book to read with you every week or when we feel they need a new one. They will be changed every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. The children need to sound out the words and blend them together in order for them to read the words independently. This is something we should be able to do around this time of year if your child isn't already blending. Please ensure your child's reading book comes to school each day so staff within school can listen to the children read.  
The children will attend the school library each **Thursday**.

#### **Things coming up:**

Phonics workshop W/C 2<sup>nd</sup> February-More information to follow soon in a separate letter

Many thanks for your kindness we really appreciate your support!