

# Gisburn Road Community Primary School

## Summer Term I – April to May 2026



## WELCOME TO SANDY OWLS



We hope that you had a lovely Easter family filled break and are ready for this half term ahead. This half term we have another exciting term ahead and will be learning all about Minibeasts and Planting. This will include growing and links to another country too.

Remember to keep up to date with our school FaceBook page. You can also send any extra pieces of learning 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 around each morning and evening but you can also contact the office on 812287 and Mrs Barwell will pass on any important information.

Mrs Heaton and Miss Anderson

### What will we be learning this Term?

Our theme in Reception this half term is going to be 'Pesky Plants and Beastly Bugs'. This will involve many creative and practical activities and plenty of engaging fun learning. 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**-Within this area the children will be developing their communication skills by expressing themselves effectively and showing awareness of listeners' needs. They will be using past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future and they will continue to develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events. Communication and Language literally comes into everything we do.

<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 the children will be learning what keeping healthy is, healthy foods and what exercise we can do to stay healthy. They will be learning about hygiene routines and why these are important and how we can stay safe in the sun. Later in the term, the children will also be talking about what makes them special and unique. Lots of this will be done within circle time sessions and then activities will be set up within the continuous provision to develop their understanding further. We will also continue with our 'My Happy Mind'.

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 our skills within our PE sessions. These include: -Travelling in different ways, balancing along a beam, throwing underarm and overarm, 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 further.

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 be counting, comparing and ordering numbers up to 20. We will be looking at length, mass, capacity, time and money and we will be also be looking at shape, sorting at patterning

Can your child: Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each Number, subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5, Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts. Can your

child: Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system, compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity, explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.

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 books 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle and 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet. We will develop the skill of joining in with stories through some Talk for Writing techniques. We will also be looking at other stories through 'Drawing Club'. Children will be encouraged to use their phonics to write sentences and short stories along with reading these too. We will be really focusing on independent reading and writing so you can help in listening to your child read every night at home please.

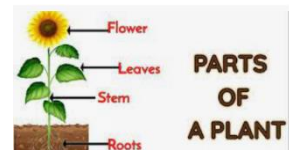
Can your child: Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary, say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs, read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending, read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words. Can your child: Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed, spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters and write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

<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 Mini-beasts, plants, fruit and vegetables. We will be asking questions about the natural world and the changes that Spring/Summer brings. We will be looking closely at Mini-beasts and the different parts and names of them. We will also be looking at and naming parts of a plant and comparing the similarities and differences between different fruits and vegetables. We will also be looking at planting, growing, fruit and vegetables and what it is like for others in another country.

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



**Expressive Arts and Design** – This half-term we will be looking at using different media such as pastels and paints to draw and paint mini-beasts and plants from observing them closely first. We will be looking at how we can mix primary colours to make secondary colours and we shall be using our playdough and clay to sculpture some mini-beasts too. The children will also have opportunities in using the loose parts to make them as well with the continuous provision areas around the classroom.



### THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **PE DAYS** : Reception have P.E each week. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school for those days. **(Please ensure names are still in all pieces of clothing)**
- **Reading**: Your child will be given books to read at home every week a couple of times each week. Books are changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The children need to sound these out and blend them together in order for them to read the words and sentences independently. Your child will need to continue to learn their tricky words at home too as we will now be moving into phase 4 phonics and recapping on aspects of phase 3.
- **Outdoors**:The weather is getting nicer now (hopefully very soon) so please ensure you send a sunhat and please apply sunscreen at home in a morning when appropriate. Each week the children will be going outdoors in using the continuous provision outdoors.

### Things coming up:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May- Creepy Crawly Roadshow in Reception Class at 11am

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 1.45pm Parents to be invited in to go on a Mini-beast hunt in Valley Gardens.  
(weather permitting)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 1.45pm Parents to be invited in to build a Mini-beast using junk modelling items from home.