



Gisburn Road Community Primary School

Autumn Term 1

2nd September-24th October 2025



Welcome to Year 1 Elf Owls



Welcome back to school, we hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the new school year. Year 1 marks the next exciting milestone in your child's school journey as they transition from the Early Years to Key Stage 1. Starting a new class and experiencing change can be unsettling for some children and it is normal if they are finding coming back to school a little tricky. We are always here to help and your child's happiness is our first priority. The children have already blown us away with how well they have come into school during our first week together, but, if you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to telephone school, send an email to the class email address (elfowls@gisburnroad.com) or catch me on the playground to make an appointment.

During the first part of the Autumn term, we will be spending lots of time learning new routines and settling into our new classroom. The children will continue to spend time in continuous provision, playing and learning and will gradually build up towards more formal learning throughout the year. We are really looking forward to many exciting activities and events in Year 1 and we hope you are too!

To keep up to date with what is going on in school, please visit our school Facebook page, or follow the link below which takes you to our 'What's on' calendar <https://www.gisburnroad.com/CALENDAR>. You will also receive letters or texts with the details on too. For any urgent / important information, please contact the school office on 812287.

The rest of this newsletter will outline the Year 1 curriculum during our first half term.

We are very much looking forward to getting to know all your amazing children and working with you over the next year.

Mrs Hunter, Mrs Wheeler and Mrs Fent

PSHE

Across school we have adopted the 'My Happy Mind' curriculum, which is an NHS-backed scheme focusing on creating a culture of positive mental well-being. It gives children the knowledge, skills and tools to thrive in the modern world.

The Autumn Term focuses on:

- What our brain looks like and how it helps us to make decisions
- The Amygdala, which causes them to Fight, Flight or Freeze
- How our brain responds and works when we learn something new – Neuroplasticity
- Using 'Happy Breathing' techniques to help calm.



English



In English, this half term we will be focusing on the text 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. We will make simple predictions, write character profiles, sequence the main events, learn the story through 'Talk for Writing' before writing our own simple stories based on the text. We will then be looking at a range of non-fiction texts about penguins and writing our own information texts. We will be learning what makes a simple sentence using the terminology subject, noun and verb. During our handwriting lessons we will be learning the different letter families and how to form some capital letters. Daily phonics lessons will continue as in Reception using Lancashire's Red Rose phonics scheme and the children will take part in the statutory Year 1 phonics screening check in June. More information about this will follow.

Mathematics

The mathematics units we are studying this half term are:

- Number and Place Value – counting and representing numbers to 30, finding one more and one less 0-30 and comparing quantities within 20.
- Measurement, Length and Mass – use a range of vocabulary to describe length, height and weight, use non standard units eg. Multilink to measure lengths, heights and masses.
- Addition and Subtraction – understanding number bonds within 10, using tens frames and part-part-whole models. Adding 10 to a single digit number, subtract 10 from teen numbers, solving one step addition and subtraction problems.
- Geometry 2D and 3D shapes – identify and name 2D and 3D shapes of different sizes and orientations including: circles, triangles, squares, rectangles, spheres, pyramids, cubes and cuboids.

Science



This half term, we will be learning about animals. We will be identifying and naming a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Then we will look at the structure of these animals and identify unknown animals based on these features. We will learn the difference between carnivores, omnivores and herbivores and will explore sorting animals based on our own criteria.

Computing

In Computing, we will be developing our mouse skills and learning to use computers more purposefully. The children will learn to log in and navigate around a computer, drag, click and control a cursor using a mouse and use software to create art on the computer.

Religious Education



Our unit this half term is Christianity, linked to God. The Children will explore the importance of special people and love in families. They will know that Christians refer to God as 'Father' and will reflect on the story of the Lost Son. Through discussion, the children will explore how Christians talk to God and who they can talk to about both good and bad things in their day.

Art

Art – The children will explore using a range of media including pastels to make observation and draw penguins. They will then use this work to create and paint clay models of penguins.

Geography



In Geography, the children will be learning to name and locate the 7 continents and 5 oceans. They will then learn to locate hot and cold places of the world and the significance of the equator. We will explore the physical and human features of hot and cold places and compare Kenya to where we live. In addition, the children will carry out some simple fieldwork to investigate the weather in our playground.

Physical Education

PE will take place on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Please make sure that pupils have a labelled PE kit in school including pumps/black trainers, shorts, t-shirt and a jacket. This half term, we will be focussing on developing fundamental motor skills and athletics.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

PE Days: PE will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Home Learning: Home learning will be sent home on a Friday to be completed for the following Friday. Please feel free to send any of your child's creative learning to elflowls@gisburnroad.com. Occasionally, children choose to bring home extra Maths home learning, this is voluntary, but they will receive dojos for completing it.

Reading: Your child should read and discuss their reading book at least 3 x a week for at least 5-10 minutes. They will also receive key words and sounds linked to their phonics to practise at home. This will help them to improve their fluency and comprehension skills. Please ensure home reading records and books are in school daily as we do also try to read with pupils as often as we can.