Gisburn Road Community Primary School

Autumn Term 2 – November to December 2026

WELCOME BACK DUSKY OWLS!



We hope that you had a good break and are ready for the run up to Christmas. You have all really impressed us in this first term, from creating amazing Paddington adventure stories, to using your magnetic knowledge to make games in Science! I can't wait to begin our new learning this half term. We have some really exciting sessions planned, from making our own Stonehenge models in History, to an edible soil session in Science!

If you ever have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to me personally or email via the class email. Any photographs, information or home learning that you would like to share with us about your child can be emailed to me at duskyowls@gisburnroad.com which will be checked every Thursday.

To keep up to date with what is going on in school and events we would like you to attend, 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



Mrs Fullalove and Miss Waterworth

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.

This term our unit is 'celebrate' and focuses on:

- What character is and where it comes from
- What character strengths we use the most
- Why it is important to use our strengths
- How you can use your strengths in difficult situations

English – In English we will be exploring folk tales with our class text being 'Greenling' by Levi Pinfold. We will be making prediction, exploring openings, creating character descriptions and writing diary entries. This will lead to us writing our own folk tale based on a model.



In our second unit, we will be focusing on letters and then instructions. Our main text will be 'The Night Gardener' by The Fan Brothers and our final outcomes will include writing letters from the role of different characters and writing a set of instructions for creating topiary.



Within our grammar session, there will be a large focus on creating complex sentences using a range of conjunctions and using inverted commas to punctuate direct speech.

Mathematics – The key aspects of maths that we will focus on this half term are: counting sequences and multiplication facts; written and mental multiplication; written and mental division; time and 3-D shape. Things that you could practice at home are: telling the time to the nearest 5 minutes; addition and subtraction facts (number bonds) and multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We will be focusing on our 3 times table very soon!

Some useful resources are:

https://ttrockstars.com/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/

http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/ordering-and-sequencing-numbers

Science – This half term we will be exploring rocks and fossils. This includes a focus on comparing and grouping rocks based on their physical properties; discussing how fossils are formed and recognising that soils are made from rocks and organic matter. I am particularly looking forward to learning about soils through creating an edible 'dirt pudding'! ☺



Some useful resources are:

https://www.nhm.ac.uk/ https://kidsloverocks.com/

https://www.livescience.com/ 'Everybody Needs a Rock' by Byrd Baylor

Computing – During this half term our unit is emailing. We will begin by exploring the structure and function of email, including how to compose, send and reply to messages, and the importance of staying safe and respectful online. We will then explore sending emails with an attachment and learn how to recognise when an email is not genuine.

Religious Education – In R.E, the children will be looking at the religion of Islam and the key question: Why is the Prophet Muhammed an example for Muslims? Key learning will include what makes a good role model; understanding the importance of the Prophet Muhammed for the Islamic community and giving reasons for the Islamic practice of Zakat.



Art and Design – This half term our focus is drawing. We will be experimenting with different grades of pencil to achieve variations in line, texture, tone, colour, shape and pattern. We will also be exploring how to plan, refine and alter drawings (as necessary) and will be using our sketchbooks to collect and record visual information.



Physical Education – Dusky Owls continue to have P.E. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays, we will be focusing on invasion games, including rugby skills. On Thursdays, we will be focusing on dance.

History – As Historians we will be exploring Ancient Britain, focusing on the Stone Age and the key question: What was 'new' about the New Stone Age? We will have an artefact box arriving at school for us to explore to help us discover more about this period and will be focusing on chronology, using different sources and places of interest, such as Skara Brae and Stonehenge.



Some useful resources are:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk

https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/

French – Our first ever French topic will begin with basic French greetings and simple conversational structures. We will focus on key vocabulary and phrases such as bonjour, au revoir, je m'appelle, and comment ça va ?, along with responses expressing different feelings like ça va bien and ça va mal.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

PE Days: We will be doing P.E. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. P.E. kits should stay in school all week.

Home Learning: Home learning will be sent home on a Tuesday and should be completed for the following Monday. This will include weekly spellings and times table practice on Times Table Rock Stars. https://ttrockstars.com/

Reading: Your child should read and discuss their reading book **at least 3x a week for 5-10 minutes.** This will help them to improve their fluency and comprehension skills. This will also help them to improve their writing skills. Please ensure home reading records and books are in school daily.