Gisburn Road Community Primary School
Autumn Term 1 – September to October 2026

WELCOME TO YEAR 4!

DUSKY OWLS

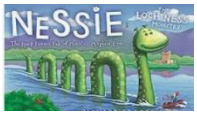
We hope that you and your families are all well and that you have had a lovely break over the summer. It will be great to see parents and friends in school and we look forward to seeing you all during this first term. We have some great topics and exciting activities planned and we can't wait to get started.

Remember to keep up to date with our school Facebook page. If you would like to pass on any urgent information, I will be on the yard each evening but you can also contact the office on 812287; Mrs Barwell will pass on any important information. Our cohort email is duskyowls@gisburnroad.com

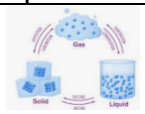
Mrs Whittaker and Mrs Holman

PSHE: This year at school we will all be following a programme called 'My Happy Mind', This programme teaches and enables children to understand their brain, how it works, their feelings and how to regulate themselves. It's all about building life-long resilience and confidence. It builds year on year and each half term has a specific focus that all children will be working on. Module 1 is called 'Meet your Brain'. This module is focused on giving children a foundational knowledge of the brain and teaching them how they can look after their minds to be at their very best.

English – In English this half term, our work will be focused around 'The Loch Ness Monster'. Firstly, we will read a selection of non-fiction texts to research the history of Nessie. We will practise using a range of subordinating conjunctions to write complex sentences and develop our understanding of key vocabulary before we write an article for a magazine titled, 'Does the Loch Ness monster exist?' We will then read an adventure story based on the story of the Loch Ness monster. As we read, we will look at how the characters develop within the story, we will look at how the author uses fronted adverbials and we will then write our own adventure stories using the story as a model.



Mathematics – During this half term, we will be focusing on several different areas of maths. We will be practising our times tables every day and this is something that you can really make a difference with, by practising at home. ☺ We will focus on developing our understanding of place value in numbers up to 4 digits and decimal numbers. Also, we will develop our strategies to add and subtract numbers. Finally, we will be practising our measuring skills, including finding the perimeter of shapes.



Science – This half term we will be learning about 'states of matter'. We will investigate solids, liquids and gases, before classifying them according to their properties. As our understanding develops, we will write and use our own definitions for solids, liquids and gases. We will investigate what happens to some materials when they are heated and cooled, using our observational skills to record our findings. Finally, we will look at the water cycle to identify how evaporation and condensation are part of this process.

Computing – This half term we will understand that software can be used collaboratively online to work as a team. We will look at what type of comments and suggestions on a collaborative document can be helpful.
We will find out that you can use images, text, transitions and animation in presentation slides.

Religious Education – In R.E, the children will be looking at the key question of 'How should we live our life?' In this half term, our focus is on Hinduism, and what a Hindu might learn from celebrating Diwali. We will revisit the story of Rama and Sita and develop our understanding of good overcoming evil and focus on the idea of light may be a symbol of goodness and hope. Finally, we will learn about how Hindus celebrate Diwali.

D,T- This half term the children will be developing their sewing skills by designing and making a small monster- making our own versions of the Loch Ness monster!

History- This half term, Year 4 will be working on a unit of Crime and Punishment based on minor misdemeanours linked to our local area of Lancashire. We will look at what crimes were committed and the punishments that were given. We will compare and contrast to life today with a particular focus on children.

Physical Education – In this first half term, the children will have two PE lessons each week. We will be focusing on athletics and net and wall games. In our games lessons, children will develop their throwing and catching skills before practising striking the ball using their hand, a bat and a racquet. In our athletics lessons, children will improve their throwing and jumping skills using a variety of techniques and aim to improve their performance as they work.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **PE DAYS : Year 4 have** P.E on a Monday and a Friday. Please ensure your child has both their indoor and outdoor PE kit in school for those days.

- **Home Learning**: Home learning is set on Fridays and should be handed in by the following Thursday. Each week, your child will have spellings to practise, a maths task and reading homework.

- **Reading**: We love reading! It is still vital that your child reads every day in Year 4. We have established our reading challenge with children earning rewards based on how many times an adult at home has listened to them read and signed their reading diary. By reading regularly your child will develop fluency and comprehension skills and will also help them to improve their writing skills.