

EYFS NEWSLETTER

TERM 2

FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH
OVERSTONE GATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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What we have been learning:

Communication and Language

This term, our learners have been developing their communication and language skills through a wide range of rich activities. They have been engaging in story times, joining in with repeated phrases and actions while listening to stories such as We're Going on a Bear Hunt and The Very Hungry Caterpillar and confidently finishing Miss Harris's sentences as she reads. They have enjoyed learning and reciting rhymes and songs including Five Currant Buns, One Man Went to Mow, and Five Little Monkeys, showing great enthusiasm. During busy learning, we have been asking our learners thoughtful "how" and "why" questions, such as "How is your car going to move?" and "Why is there a ribbon at the top?", demonstrating growing curiosity and understanding how to answer these types of questions. They have also been expanding their vocabulary and beginning to use new words in conversation. Next term, we will continue this focus by introducing a "word of the week," modelling sentences that use conjunctions such as and, or, and because, and supporting our learners as they begin to speak in front of small groups while continuing to develop their use of social phrases.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, our learners have been developing their Personal, Social and Emotional skills by learning to play cooperatively, take turns, and understand the boundaries and expectations of our setting. Through PSHE sessions, role play, and our Colour Monsters display, they have been learning to identify and name feelings such as happy, upset, angry, lonely, and worried, and rainbow breathing has helped them calm down so they can explain what has happened when they feel upset. We have encouraged learners to join in with groups of peers and to show interest in new friendships by choosing different learners to busy learn with, helping them grow in confidence when playing with others. They have also been working on adjusting their behaviour to different situations, beginning to understand the consequences of their actions, and showing perseverance with adult support. Next term, we will continue this focus by encouraging learners to consider one another's ideas during activities, helping them think about their own goals and the steps needed to achieve them, and modelling these conversations during carpet time while celebrating perseverance with house points and stickers.



Physical Development

This term, learners have been developing both gross and fine motor skills through a range of physical activities. During outdoor learning, they have explored obstacle courses, ball games and movement challenges to practise spatial awareness, safe jumping and landing, hopping and controlled movement. These activities have also strengthened core muscles through good sitting posture and use of their "lizard pose".

Indoors, learners have focused on fine motor development through mark making, improving pencil control and beginning to form recognisable letters. Kinetic Letters sessions have supported the development of a tripod grip and correct letter formation.

Next term, we will continue to build on these skills by developing balance, improving control when throwing and catching and moving confidently in larger spaces. PE lessons will revisit fundamental movement skills and learners will have increased opportunities to use scissors to further strengthen fine motor control.



Literacy

This term, our learners have been developing their literacy skills through a wide range of engaging activities. We have been learning the poem *Firework* by James Carter, practising “my turn, your turn” to learn each line, adding actions, creating a story map to support recall, using props, and performing the poem together. In phonics, learners have now secured all their Level 2 sounds and have begun working on Level 3. They have been developing their decoding skills by sounding out words and blending the sounds to read them. We have also been learning tricky words, which cannot be sounded out and simply have to be remembered. Learners have been practising segmenting words to spell them, breaking words into their individual sounds, and applying these skills when reading and writing CVC words. Through our Kinetic Letters sessions, they have been focusing on correct letter formation and ensuring they write their name on all pieces of work. Next term, we will be building on these skills by encouraging learners to listen attentively during story and rhyme times, talk about the main events in a story, and begin to use language from stories and rhymes in their discussions and play. They will also be working on answering questions about a text and learning to orally compose a simple sentence.



Mathematics

This term in maths, our learners have been developing their understanding of numbers 1 to 5, focusing on representing, comparing, and exploring the composition of each number. To support this learning, they have been using a wide range of practical resources such as Numicon, five frames, counters, and Multilink cubes, helping them to build strong visual and hands-on understanding. Learners have also been practising finding one more and one less and learning about four-sided shapes, including squares and rectangles, through both guided activities and practical exploration. In addition, we have begun discussing early concepts of time by thinking about the differences between night and day. Next term, we will continue to build on these foundations by introducing numbers 6, 7 and 8, exploring the idea of zero, and comparing numbers to 5. Learners will deepen their understanding of the composition of 4 and 5, compare mass and capacity, work on making pairs and comparing two groups, and explore length and height through practical activities. We will also continue developing their understanding of time as part of our daily routines.



Understanding the World

This term, our learners have been exploring and developing their understanding of the world around them. They have learned that some places are special to members of our community and have explored historical events such as the Gunpowder Plot - using role play to understand the story-and Remembrance Day, where they took part in Wootton Park School's service and created a wreath and poppies. We have talked about seasonal changes from autumn to winter, noticing changes in the weather and natural world, and explored melting and freezing by investigating toys trapped in ice. Learners have also discussed different religions and how people may celebrate Christmas or other special events in different ways. Next term, we will continue this learning by exploring our own and others' cultures, recognising differences with respect, and learning about life in other countries and environments unlike our own. We will also talk about different occupations, explore simple forces such as push and pull, and continue experimenting with changing materials through activities like making playdough or mixing paint.



Recommended Reads



Expressive Arts and Design

This term, our learners have been developing their expressive arts and design skills by singing familiar songs, learning new poems, and preparing for our EYFS Nativity. They have worked incredibly hard to learn all of the Nativity songs, actions, and words, showing growing confidence during rehearsals. Learners have taken on their roles with enthusiasm-whether narrating, acting, dancing, or singing-and have shown wonderful teamwork as they practised coming on and off the stage, using props and performing in front of an audience. Through this experience, they have learned how to express themselves, follow musical cues and work together to create a shared performance. They have also enjoyed performing poems and using expression in their voices. Next term, we will continue to build on these creative skills by helping learners name and explore different instruments, understand how to play them, and begin to perform simple pieces of music as a group.

PSHE

This term in PSHE, our learners have been exploring the Jigsaw theme Celebrating Difference. Through stories, circle times, and practical activities, they have been learning that we are all unique and special in our own ways. Learners have talked about what makes them who they are, shared things they like and are good at and learned to appreciate and respect differences in others. We have explored ideas such as kindness, friendship, and handling unkind behaviour, helping learners understand how their actions can affect those around them. They have also begun to recognise that families can look different, but all families are important and full of love. Throughout the term, we have encouraged learners to use positive language, celebrate achievements, and show care for one another. Next term, we will be moving on to the Jigsaw theme Dreams and Goals, where learners will begin thinking about what they would like to get better at, how to stay motivated, and how to work towards simple goals. They will also learn how to celebrate their successes and support friends with their goals too.

Suggestions for Home

We have been developing learners' speaking, listening, and thinking skills through stories, discussions, and group activities. You can support this at home by having short, meaningful conversations. Here are a few simple ideas:

- Talk about goals and plans:
"What would you like to get better at?"
"What could we do first?"
- Discuss stories together:
Talk about the characters, what happened, and what might happen next.
- Build vocabulary: Use new words from books or everyday life and talk about what they mean.
- Encourage curiosity:
Ask "why" and "what if" questions about the world around you.
- Use every day routines for chatting:
Talk while cooking, tidying, walking to school, or getting ready for bed.



Learner Leadership

This term, our Eco Warriors have been meeting to discuss how we can improve our school environment as we work towards achieving our Green Flag. After completing an environmental audit, we identified a few key areas to develop. We want to raise awareness about the importance of protecting marine life, increase the number of plants in our outdoor areas to support insects and biodiversity, and encourage everyone to take greater care of litter within our school and wider community. To help achieve this, the Eco Warriors have planned three exciting actions: planting lavender and creating a greenhouse filled with plants that insects love, designing a fish display using bottle tops to highlight the importance of keeping plastic out of the sea, and organising a community litter pick with mums and dads. We are also pleased to introduce Amélie, our Learner Council representative, who will be the voice of our class. She has already met with Mrs Smith to share her thoughts on our school culture, what she enjoys, and what she feels could be improved.

Reminders

To ensure that drop off and collection arrangements run smoothly, please inform the school directly by phone or email of any changes to the expected adult collecting your child. We also kindly request that you notify us if your child will not be using the bus service so that staffing can be deployed appropriately to ensure the safety of all learners.

We kindly remind families that hair accessories should be in school colours and that temporary tattoos should not be visible while learners are in school. Thank you for your continued support in upholding these expectations and helping us maintain the high standards we value.

With seasonal illnesses in full swing, we kindly remind families that it is important to inform the school office on each day that your child is absent and to do so before the school day begins. This helps us ensure the safety of all learners and maintain accurate attendance records. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.



Key Dates

Monday 5th January – Start of Term

Learners will return to school on Monday 5th January. The bus will arrive at the bus stop at 08:15.

Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th January – Parents' Evening

Please book your Parents' Evening slot with Miss Harris via Arbor.

Week Commencing Monday 9th February - Children's Mental Health Week

Learners will take part in discussions about how to stay positive and how to improve our well being.

Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day

Learners will take part in carpet sessions and activities to explore the importance of Safer Internet Day.

Wednesday 11th February – Headteacher Drop In

Join Mrs Smith at Overstone Care Home between 8:30 - 9:20 am if you would like to share any feedback or have a chat.

Friday 13th February - End of Term

Learners will finish school at 15:00 on Friday 13th February. Learners will be collected from school at 15:00.

Tuesday 17th February – Ramadan

Ramadan is taking place during half term and we will be celebrating this in school before half term.

Tuesday 17th February – Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is taking place during half term and we will be celebrating this in school after half term.

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you for supporting such a worthy cause. We had a great day enjoying our Christmas Lunch whilst wearing our Christmas jumpers. As a school, we raised £34.45. Thank you!



Christmas Nativity

Our Nativity, Barmy Bethlehem, was a huge success, and the children did a phenomenal job. They performed with confidence, enthusiasm and lots of character, bringing the story to life in the most joyful way. We are incredibly proud of every child who took part - it was truly cuteness overload and a wonderful celebration to share with our families.



Merry Christmas!

As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, I would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the year. We hope the holiday break brings you time to rest, celebrate and enjoy special moments together, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.



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