Owls Class: Medium-Term Plan (Spring Term 1, 2025–26)

Communication and Language

In Communication and Language, children will develop their listening, attention and speaking skills through stories, discussions and play. They will learn why listening carefully is important in whole-class situations and begin to communicate confidently with familiar and unfamiliar people. Through storytelling, role play and collaborative play, children will use new vocabulary, ask questions, explain their ideas and retell stories using their own words. Rhymes, songs, non-fiction texts and repetitive story language will support children to develop fluency, understanding and confidence in spoken language.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Personal, Social and Emotional Development, children will continue to build positive relationships and develop a strong sense of self. They will learn to express their feelings, consider the feelings of others and manage their own needs with increasing independence. Through play, stories and everyday routines, children will develop resilience, perseverance and confidence, learning to work collaboratively and respect different viewpoints.

Physical Development PE lessons

In Physical Development, children will develop both gross and fine motor skills through PE lessons, Forest School sessions and daily provision. They will practise fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, climbing and balancing, as well as throwing and catching balls with increasing confidence and control. Fine motor activities will support hand strength and coordination for writing and tool use. Children will also learn about healthy lifestyles, including exercise, healthy eating, personal hygiene and safe routines during the school day.

Literacy

In Literacy, children will explore traditional tales and favourite stories, with a focus on our core text 'The Gingerbread Man'. Through storytelling, role play and discussion, children will develop comprehension skills, recall key events and predict what might happen next. Daily phonics sessions will support children to read and write words and simple sentences using known letter–sound correspondences. Writing opportunities will include captions, labels and short sentences, with children encouraged to re-read their work to check it makes sense.

What are our favourite stories?

This question gives Reception children the opportunity to explore a range of traditional tales and favourite stories while learning about the seasons, New Year, Chinese New Year and Pancake Day. Children will revisit well-loved texts, discover new stories and make links to their own experiences, the local area and the wider world. Learning will be playful, child-led and creative, supporting curiosity, imagination and a growing love of stories.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, children will develop their understanding of number through practical, hands-on experiences linked to stories and play. They will count objects, actions and sounds, subitise up to 5 and begin to explore doubles. Children will compare numbers, understand one more and one less, and explore the composition of numbers to 10. Shape, space and measure learning will include manipulating shapes, creating patterns and comparing length, weight and capacity, helping children to develop problem-solving and reasoning skills.

Understanding the World

Children will learn about their families, their local area and the wider world through stories, celebrations and exploration. They will talk about familiar people and places, compare characters from traditional tales and learn that people celebrate special times in different ways, such as New Year, Chinese New Year and Pancake Day. Children will explore the natural world, noticing changes during Winter and developing an understanding of different environments, countries and cultures. Children will continue with their weekly Forest School visits, observing plants, animals, and seasonal changes from Winter to Spring, talking about what they notice and continuing to develop curiosity.

Expressive Arts and Design

In Expressive Arts and Design, children will express their ideas and feelings through art, music, dance and imaginative play. They will experiment with colour, texture, sound and movement, create collaboratively and develop storylines in their pretend play using story language. Singing, music and movement activities will support rhythm, pitch and expression, while drawing and model-making will allow children to represent their ideas creatively.