



Themes

This half-term, many of our learning themes will be based around the over-arching topic of 'Our World'. We will be learning about the polar, desert and the ocean habitats, linking in the features of Winter and investigating changing states of matter, as well as floating and sinking. During our final week, our theme will be 'Pirates'. As always, our themes remain flexible so that we can adapt to specific interests led by the children. Some of our key texts this half term will include:



Maths

This half-term, we will be covering the units of 'Alive in 5!', 'Mass and Capacity', 'Growing 6,7,8' and 'Length, Height and Time'. During the 'Alive in 5' unit, we will be learning about finding, representing, subitising and comparing numbers to 5, 1 more and 1 less, and the composition of 4 and 5. During the 'Mass and Capacity' unit, we will be learning to compare mass and find a balance, as well as exploring and comparing capacity. During the 'Growing 6,7,8' unit, we will be learning about the numbers 6,7 and 8, making pairs, combining 2 groups and finding doubles to 8. During the last week of the half-term, we will also begin our 'Length, Height and Time' which will be completed after the half-term holidays.

We will use a range of key texts to support our Maths learning:



Phonics and Reading

This half-term, the children will continue to receive daily phonics lessons in small groups, allowing us to provide targeted support with reading and writing. All children will continue to learn and recap 'Set 1' single-letter sounds and initial digraphs (sounds made up of two letters: nk, ng, sh, ch, th, ck, ll, ff, ss), with some pupils beginning to learn Set 2 digraphs (ay, ee, ow, oo, oo, ar, or, ir, ou, oy) and trigraphs (igh and air). e.g. ay as in play, ee as in tree and igh as in high.

Phonics and Reading at home:

On Fridays, pupils will continue to bring home sounds and words that they have been learning so that they can continue to practise them at home. As they learn more sounds and make progress with blending these together, pupils will start to bring home 'Blending Books' with single words and 'Ditty Sheets' with sentences to read, before eventually being given home reader books once they are on red level.

Inside the front cover of their planner, your child also has log-in details for 'Oxford Owl', which is a digital phonics and reading platform linked to the RWI scheme. Your child's class teacher will assign appropriate activities for your child to read. Simply go to www.oxfordowl.co.uk and use the log-in details provided.

****Please ensure that you record in your child's planner each time that they read their Words/Ditty Sheets.****

Key Words:

Please continue to support your children with learning their 'Key Words'. These are words that your child will come across regularly but can't be phonetically decoded (i.e. can't be sounded out and blended together) and therefore must be learnt by sight. There are six sets of key words for pupils to learn as they progress through Reception and into Year 1:

Set 1: the, to, I, no, go, into

Set 2: he, she, we, me, be, was

Set 3: you, they, all, are, my, her

Set 4: said, have, like, so, do, some, come

Set 5: were, there, little, one, when, out, what

Set 6: oh, their, people, Mr, Mrs, looked, called, asked, could

Once your child knows a set, please leave a note in their school planner; we will then check and issue the next set of flash cards. Reception staff will also periodically check how your child is getting on with recognising their key words. Further information, including ideas to help your child learn these words can be found in the letter that came with the flashcards.

PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

In Reception, we are continually supporting our pupils to develop their personal, social and emotional skills, which provide important foundations for future learning. This half-term, our PSED focus is on building constructive and respectful relationships by understanding what it means to be respectful and knowing what makes a good friend. We will be using 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers, 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson and 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister as key texts to support pupils' PSED learning.

Furthermore, during week 2 (WB. 12.1.26) we will be reading the book 'And Tango Makes Three' by Justin Richardson. The book tells the true story of two male penguins, Roy and Silo, who want to create a family together. With the help of their zookeeper, they are given an egg which they help hatch. Subsequently, we will discuss how there can be many different kinds of families, all of whom deserve to be accepted and respected.



Early Years Curriculum

For further information about our Early Years curriculum, including details on all the key texts that we use, please visit: <https://www.greenside-sch.org/curriculum/> where you find a link to our EY Curriculum Map.

Early Learning Goal in Focus

This half-term, we are placing special focus on the Early Learning Goal of '**Listening, Attention and Understanding**'. By the end of Reception, pupils are targeted to:

- ⊕ Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.
- ⊕ Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.
- ⊕ Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.

*At home, you can help your child with their attention and listening by:

- Approaching your child before you speak.
- Calling your child by name before you speak and waiting for them to look.
- Getting down to your child's level whenever possible.
- Encouraging (but not trying to force) eye contact.
- Reducing background noise by turning the off the TV or radio to help your child focus their attention on you.
- Reducing visual distractions as much as possible.

Activities you can do with your child to improve their attention and listening skills:

- Using a 'talking object' like a small ball. When someone is speaking, they must be holding the talking ball. This means everyone else (including adults) must listen to what they say and not interrupt.
- Playing 'Simon Says'. Whoever is 'Simon' gives out instructions such as "Simon says... touch your toes!". The children must only perform the action if the sentence has "Simon says" at the start. This will encourage your child to focus and listen to the words before moving.
- Playing listening games. Playing a game like musical statues. This is where you play some music and encourage your child to dance around the room. As soon as you stop the music they must stay still and 'turn into a statue'.

*Taken from NHS online recommendations for developing the attention and listening skills on 4-5 year-olds.

Pupil Clothing

Please could all parents/carers ensure that their child brings a warm (and waterproof) coat, a woolly hat and gloves to school each day so that the children remain warm whilst outside.

Please could we also remind parents/carers that all clothing, particularly jumpers and cardigans, need to be clearly named. Over time, ink does fade and labels fall out, so please regularly check all items of clothing.

School Planners

Pupils will continue receiving reading homework (words, Ditty Sheets or book) on Friday's which is based on their phonics level. **Please write in your child's school planner each time that your child reads at home to let us know how they have got on.** If parents/carers do not write in the planner, we are not always sure whether your child has read. Please ensure that your child brings their planner in every day, so that we can also record when pupils read with an adult at school.

Online Learning Platforms: Oxford Owl and Numbots

Inside the front cover of their planner, your child has log-in details for 'Oxford Owl' and 'Numbots'.



Oxford Owl is a digital phonics and reading platform. Your child's class teacher will assign appropriate activities for your child. Simply go to www.oxfordowl.co.uk and use the log-in details provided.



'Numbots' is a fun and engaging Maths program which supports your child's learning of counting, subsidising and calculating. Go to www.play.numbots.com or download the app.

House Teams

All pupils at Greenside are a member of one of our four House Teams. These are **Kirkstall Abbey House (Yellow)**, **Roche Abbey House (Red)**, **Bolton Abbey House (Blue)** and **Fountains Abbey House (Green)**. Pupils collect House Points or 'Dojos' as a reward for showcasing our 'Great at Greenside' rules and applying their 'Learning Powers'. These points count towards individual and house team totals. Details of your child's house team can be found inside their school planner.

PE

Indoor PE will continue to be taught weekly on Tuesday mornings. On PE days, your child still needs to come to school in their school uniform, with their **PE kit in a named bag** already in school. Your child will need trainers/pumps, a bottle green hoodie or their school jumper/cardigan, plain black tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts and a Greenside PE t-shirt. We will send home your child's PE kit to be washed on the final week of each half term. Please note the colour of the PE bag is your choice but **please ensure both the bag and all items inside it, including shoes, are named.**

Arts and Crafts

As you will be starting to notice, our Reception pupils love nothing more than crafting and collaging with a range of recycled materials. To support us with keeping this area stocked, please bring any recycling from home. This will allow the children to upcycle and recreate some amazing masterpieces to share with you at home time.

For hygiene reasons, please do not send in toilet rolls and ensure that items are cleaned before hand.

Bringing Toys to School

We kindly request that pupils **do not** bring any toys or stationery into school from home. This is to avoid items from becoming lost or damaged. We have plenty of toys and resources for the children to use.

We also request that pupils do not bring in items to share with or gift to other pupils, as this can often lead to misunderstandings and fallings out. If your child does have something to gift to a friend, we kindly request this is done outside of school.

Please give any party invitations to your child's class teacher so that these can be placed discretely into book bags.

Celebration Assembly

Celebration Assembly for Reception and Key Stage 1 will take place fortnightly on Fridays at 9am. If your child has been chosen to receive an award, you will receive a text inviting you to attend the assembly so that you are able to celebrate with your child.

Dates for your diary

Friday 19th January - MindMate Support Parent/Carer Coffee Morning – Managing Emotions 9-10am.

Tuesday 4th February - KS1 local area walk – parents/carers invited to join on a pre-planned route to begin at 1pm. Further information to follow shortly.

Friday 13th February - FROGs Valentines Bake Sale

Friday 13th February - School Closes