



Welcome to Greatstone School's Early Learning Zone Spring Term

Now the winter weather is here, summer and starting school feels like a very long way away! Term One and Two have gone really fast, which means we are approaching the middle of the school year as we enter Term Three. The children have settled into school life amazingly well and seem like they have been here forever. By now, everyone is used to the routine and expectations of school and hopefully, feel at home!



As we enter Term Three, we ask, "Did they all live happily ever after?" We will be exploring traditional tales and different characters, settings, events and endings, maybe even changing some of them...

We will continue to spend time focused on life long skills such as listening to one another, turn taking, negotiating with friends and persevering with our work, all of which can be really tricky when you are four and five years old!



We know through vast research that reading with children develops their own vocabulary and it is never too early to encourage a love of books. This term we move onto digraphs and even trickier words so the more we read, the more we progress. Children, at this stage of the year should be beginning to blend longer words and recognize those harder to read and spell words. We understand it takes time, but please keep going, reading at home makes a great deal of difference in school.

Notes and Reminders

Our Outdoor Area and Opal Play are both really exciting, messy and fun. As the weather is now really cold, please can we ask that all children in our Early Learning Zone have a puddle suit and wellies in school so we can access the outdoors in all weathers. Please, as always, label everything!!

Change of Clothing and PE Kit

It is always really helpful to have spare uniform/clothes including socks and underwear in bags for those just in case days!! We enjoy lots of outdoor, messy play but have indoor water play too, so lots can happen!

Thank you



23rd January 2026

Parents are invited to watch our first Turtle Class Assembly which is very exciting. Following this, there will be a talk in the hall from Miss Thorogood who is our Reading Lead in school and Mrs Bovingdon, the Early Year Lead. This will give you a little insight not only into how we teach reading in school, what the children should be able to do at this stage, but also what happens as they progress into Year One and beyond.

Home Learning Challenge

As our question this term is all about traditional tales, we would love to see children create their own, exciting art work, story, junk model or anything else they can think of linked to the lovely stories we learn during this term!

Phonics Homework

As we continue to teach the sounds in phonics, we will add a short video to Dojo each time so that you can see and hear a child making the specific sound needed for each letter. The children love making these videos and they can help them really embed the sounds at home too. As we move into digraphs, it all does become that much trickier so we are always here to help.

Maths

Children in reception need to have a really solid understanding of numbers from 0-10. This includes their composition, what they look like and how these relate to everyday life. In Maths, we would love the children to explore shapes around them, identifying not only the shapes that are two dimensional but also, three dimensional too, which are cubes, cuboids, pyramids, cylinders and spheres. An example of this might be the use of technology to take photos of 3D shapes around them as they walk to the park and making a collage or adding them to Portfolio with a short explanation!

Portfolio

The link between home and school is so important. Any exciting trips, new achievements, new pets and so on can be added to Dojo on your child's portfolio. This allows the children to share their achievements with their class mates and allows the opportunity to talk in front of a small group!

Class Dojo and Arbor



We understand that it is so important to keep you up to date with everything your child is doing in school and events which are happening throughout the term. Please ensure you continue to check Arbor for messages and updates but also keep an eye on Class Dojo. As we love learning 'in the moment' things do often spring up which we add to our, already busy days so there might be quick messages on here about events not initially on the calendar. Please do shout if you have trouble accessing either of these and we shall try and help.

As always, if you need me for anything, please do come and see me on the gate each morning. You are more than welcome to book additional appointments should you need to via the school office or you can reach me on the following email:

bovingdonk@greatstoneschool.co.uk

