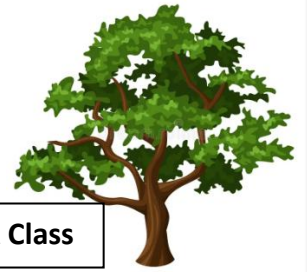
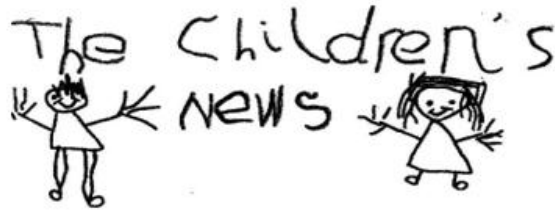


Ash Class



Oak Class

23rd January 2026

Ash and Oak have continued to enjoy our topic on Little Red Riding Hood. Last week, we enjoyed retelling the story, remembering all the words. We then looked at some pictures and decided which order they came in the story. The children had to verbalise and explain why they had chosen to put a picture in a certain position in the sequence. This led on to each child thinking of their own sentence linked to the story and writing it down with the support of the teacher. We were so impressed with how the children approached this task. They are beginning to apply the skills we have learnt in our phonics and handwriting lessons; listening to all the sounds in the word, writing each sound down using a grapheme that we have learnt, leaving a space between each word, using the display of harder to read and spell words for spellings such as the, to etc and thinking carefully about letter formation. We have used some of this lovely writing and some of the children's craft on our class display.

Please do encourage your child to write as often as possible. It could be a list, a card, a caption for a picture, a little story, anything really!! Correct spelling is not essential. We encourage the children to hear the sounds and represent them. For example, in our writing last week some children wrote forist or woodkuta. This is fine and shows that the child can hear and represent the sounds. However, we do encourage correct spelling of harder to read and spell words and encourage the children to use the display/ word sheets to get these correct.

These lovely pictures show children enjoying the Little Red Riding Hood role play in the playground and at Forest School, retelling the story and acting it out with the words and some great voices/ expression.



Each week, we have formal handwriting lessons. At Gothic Mede, we use a programme called Letterjoin and teach a print handwriting style. Over the last couple of weeks, we have focused on the letter families which includes the letters **i/l/t** and **u/w/e, c/o, a/d** and **n,m,h**.

You are able to access LetterJoin from home to further support your child with the formation of these letters. Attached to this newsletter you will find details of how to access Letterjoin from home. It is really important that when you login to Letterjoin that you select your child's class. If you choose the wrong class the font will not match the print handwriting style that they have been taught. This term's home learning task enables you to explore Letterjoin further. See below.

Phonics

Last week the children learnt; **ar** as in card, **ur** as in turn, **oo** as in food and **or** as in storm.

This week, we are learning; **ow** as in clown, **oi** as in boil, **ear** as in near and **air** as in hair. Next week we are learning; **ure** as in pure, **er** as in butter and **ow** as in snow.

We are also learning harder to read and spell words; **they, are, all, ball and tall**

Maths

This week, the children will continue to engage with activities that develop their understanding of composition, or the numbers within numbers to 5. We will be on exploring ways to represent numbers using dice patterns. The children will secure their understanding of the pairs of numbers that make 5, and then use double dice frames to begin to explore 6 and 7 as numbers that are composed of '5 and a bit'.

It has been lovely to see your Tapestry observations of how your children have been exploring number at home. This lovely picture shows exploring different ways of making 5 with satsumas!



Forest School dates

Mon 26th Jan – Ash

Mon 2nd Feb – Oak

Mon 9th Feb – Ash

Half Term

Mon 23rd Feb – Oak

Mon 2nd Mar – Ash

Mon 9th Mar – Oak

Mon 16th Mar – Ash

Mon 23rd Mar – Oak

Easter Holidays

Important Reminders:

On Friday 6th we are having Number Day! We are asking the children to come into school 'dressed for digits' - Please can you send your child in wearing an item of clothing with a number on, or representing a number. This can be a favourite sports top, cap or you could get creative and design your own unique t-shirt!

We have updated our example timetable for the Spring term. This has been sent out with this newsletter. As always, it is subject to change on a weekly basis but it does give a good overview of what your child's week in school looks like.

Homework/ Show & Tell;

Reading & Phonics;

Daily reading

Daily HRSW practise

Spring Handwriting Homework;

Letter-join 

Please see the attached documents that detail this term's handwriting homework and provides you with the Letterjoin login. They can also be found at;

<https://www.gothicmede.org.uk/page/?title=Homework&pid=121&action=saved>

Spring Maths Homework;

For maths homework this half term, the children will receive a pack at the Maths Workshop on Friday. They will then receive a pack of games weekly for the following 4 weeks. These will be explained in the maths workshop that is being held on Friday in the hall.

Diary dates

Friday 23rd January 9-10am – Mastering Maths Parents Workshop (more info to follow)

Friday 6th February – Number Day

Tuesday 10th Feb - SEND coffee morning - Supporting SEND in the Home. Guest Speaker. Please book with Mrs Glindon

16th – 20th Feb – Half Term Holiday

Tuesday 24th Feb 4.30-7.00pm – Parent Consultation evening

Thursday 26th Feb 4.00- 6.30pm – Parent Consultation evening

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

Week commencing 9th March – Science Week

Thursday 12th March 5.30pm – Nursery Bedtime story. For all children below school age whether they attend GMA or not. Do sign up and bring your little ones along (older siblings are welcome to attend too)

Friday 27th March – Last day of Spring Term