



Welcome to Greatstone School's Early Learning Zone September 2025

Wow, how has September come around so quickly! The children are all super ready for their new year and new challenges. We really want this to be a partnership between home and school so please do keep us posted on Portfolio of any exciting experiences the children have had at home, from riding their bike without stabilizers to their first visit from the tooth fairy, we want to know and celebrate in school too! The children love standing up and sharing these!



Our Learning

As we settle into our new Early Learning Zone, our focus this term will be "How do I fit into our world?" The children in both Turtle Class and Starfish Class will explore their own families and the world around them, including school and nursery life and how we fit into the world. Keep an eye out on Dojo, we will be asking for family pictures!

Reading at Home



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. Children are welcome to take a library book home each week to share at home. Turtle Class have already received their first school reading books but please do continue to just read anything and everything. Children love stories, but equally, love to tell them from the pictures too!

Notes and Reminders

Our Outdoor Area and Opal Play are both really exciting, messy and fun. At the moment children may still require sun cream but as the weather cools, 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

Please label everything!!



Pre Reading and Phonics Talk

All parents from Turtle Class are invited into class at 3.30 on Wednesday 10th September for a talk about the importance of reading for pleasure and then the all-important reading books and phonics lessons which we have just begun in Turtle Class. It is also an opportunity for a quick catch up!

As always, my email is:

bovingdonk@greatstoneschool.co.uk (EYFS Lead and Reception Teacher)

Home Learning Challenge

This term, as the children answer the question, "How do I fit into our world?" we would like them to show us this in some form. For example, a collage of family members, a drawing of their best friend, a short video on their Dojo Portfolio of a dance to their favourite song, the list goes on and can be as detailed as you can possibly make it! The deadline for this is the 6th December so if you and your child would like to do a little each week, that would be amazing!

Phonics Homework

As we begin 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.

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. Maths homework this term is to count! Count everything, the stairs on the way to bed, the number of chips or chicken nuggets on your plate, anything and everything! Being able to recognize the numeral is very important so I will shortly be sending home some number cards to use at home. Understanding what a 3 looks like is important when learning how to count objects to match!

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!

Although these activities are planned for Turtle Class, they are easily adapted for nursery should you wish. Instead of identifying sounds and letters, a listening walk is a really good way to get children to really focus on what they can hear. This is a fabulous pre reading skill but is also a really useful skill for parents when they are talking to their child too!

Assembly

The children are involved in assemblies from Term Two onwards once they have settled into school life. After all, standing in front of the whole school is just a little scary! The dates in the calendar for our assemblies are:

Friday 20th March 2026
Friday 3rd July 2026



See you there!



Turtle Class 2025