



## Snowy Owls Autumn Term Update

**Teacher:** Miss C Middlebrook  
**One to one Support Assistants:** Mrs K Anderson/Mrs S Bertram/Mrs M Stylin

I hope that you have enjoyed the Summer holiday and are ready to start the new year in Snowy Owls! English and Mathematics this year will be taught in single year groups in the mornings, then children will re-join their normal classes for the afternoon. Miss Haigh will teach Year 4 and Miss Middlebrook will teach Year 5.

### Topic

Our whole KS2 Topic for this Half Term will be 'The Vicious Vikings'. This will involve learning about the different roles of the Vikings and the lasting impact that they had on Britain. We will be having a visitor in to learn more about this and may have access to a real farrier too! We will then move onto a topic celebrating the forthcoming centenary of the end of the First World War in 1918; looking at the conditions that the soldiers had to endure, the impact of the war on Europe and the lasting repercussions it had. I hope to invite some exciting visitors into school as part of this, such as a local historian who will share real WW1 and WW2 artefacts, and a friend who currently serves in the Royal Navy. We will also endeavour to research soldiers from Hambleton who fought in WW1. If anyone has any WW1 or WW2 artefacts/items that they would like to share, then these would be welcomed - especially those that are linked to soldiers from Hambleton.

In Art, the children will develop their observational sketching skills, use of tone and painting. This will be linked to Harvest, our writing about animals, as well as our study of 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo. DT projects that will be linked to our topics will include designing and making Viking shields, jewellery, weaving and having a Viking banquet. I would also like to knit some poppies with the children that we could put up to mark the centenary and any volunteers who would be willing to come in and offer their time/skills to help with this on afternoons would be welcomed.

### Talk for Writing –

**Y4:** Diary Entry and Story with historical setting.

**Y5: Class Novel:** 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo (linked to forthcoming WW1 Topic work). We will begin by reading the short story 'It's a dog's life' by Michael Morpurgo and focusing on animal character description, before linking this to 'War Horse' and writing through the eyes of an animal.  
**Other genres:** adventure stories, war poetry and newspaper articles.

For each Literacy genre that we focus on, the children will continue to use the Pie Corbett approach of Imitate, Innovate, Invent to embed the features of a text type and enable them to produce a piece of writing in the same style. The children will complete a 'Cold Task' assessment prior to each unit, in which they are asked to write the text type independently in order to identify aspects of grammar/composition which need to be incorporated within the teaching. The children will continue to be encouraged to proof-read, edit and re-draft their writing.

### Grammar and Handwriting

Grammar, Spelling and Handwriting will be taught discretely within single cohort English sessions on a morning. All Year 5 children will be issued with handwriting pens and a pen license and this will be monitored depending on the quality of their work.

**Y4 Grammar & Punctuation:** Expanded noun phrases, preposition, subordinating conjunctions, fronted adverbials, rhetorical question, using the first person. Exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and fronted adverbials.

**Y5 Grammar & Punctuation:** Embellish simple sentences, secure use of compound sentences and develop use of complex sentences (subordinating conjunctions), using adverbial phrases to elaborate openers. Brackets, dashes and commas for parenthesis, conventions of writing dialogue, use of commas to separate clauses and clarify meaning.

### Spelling

**Y4:** Prefixes ('in-', 'il-', 'im-', 'ir-'), suffixes ('-ing', '-er', '-en', '-ed'), homophones, possessive apostrophes.

**Y5:** 'ough' letter string, silent letters, Suffixes (-able and -ible), homophones and Y5/6 words.

Weekly spelling patterns will be taught to the children, who will be encouraged to apply these correctly in their writing, as well as editing/checking them carefully. A list of the Y3/4 and Y5/6 statutory spellings have also been issued with this letter (depending on year group) and I would encourage you to keep practising these with your child according to their year group.

### **Guided Reading**

Guided Reading will take place on a daily basis for 25 minutes; reading a variety of different types of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts. This will include a focus on our class novel 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo. The children will increasingly be encouraged to use Point, Evidence, Explanation to structure their written answers and to explore skills like inference and summarising through other activities.

### **Accelerated Reader**

Children have completed the Star Reading assessment to assess which colour band of reading books they can borrow from the library to take AR quizzes on and have been informed of their results. At this particular age, the children should be reading regularly and widely, as this will not only aid their comprehension skills, but also their writing, grammar and spelling. There are many of my own books in the new classroom reading corner which they are very welcome to read, as long as they are taken care of and this area is also a reward when pupils have worked hard and tried their best.

**Maths** – This will continue to be taught in single year groups using the Singapore Maths approach 'Maths – No Problem!'. There will also be daily practise of instant recall facts such as times tables.

**Y4 Autumn topics:** Number & place value – numbers up to 1000, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division (formal written methods). Word problems.

**Y5 Autumn topics:** Place Value in numbers up to 1,000,000, Addition and Subtraction (formal written method), Multiplication and Division (factors, multiples, prime numbers, written methods).

**Science** – This year our Science topics will be Properties and changes of materials, animals in the locality and their habitats, and animal reproduction.

**PE** – PE coaching will take place every Tuesday afternoon 1-1.45pm. Gymnastics sessions will take place with the gymnastics coach on Thursday afternoons.

### **Routines**

As the children are now in Year 4 or 5, there will be an increased emphasis on them taking responsibility for their belongings and being independent in preparation for High School. Pupils have been issued with a drawer pack of pencil, pen, whiteboard etc and learning aids with their names on that they should take good care of. Failure to take responsibility for these items will result in moving down the behaviour chart or losing free time. Please can children ensure that they bring their full PE kit in at the start of every week and that all Library/Accelerated Reader books are carefully returned to school when completed. Also, please can they take responsibility for remembering to take water bottles/packed lunches home at the end of a day and leaving the tables, cloakroom and PE boxes as tidy as possible!

On a morning, children will be expected to stay in the classroom doing a morning activity or reading a book so that registers can be taken accurately and be ready to move into single cohort sessions by 8.50am to maximise learning time. Reading books can be changed during afternoon registration.

**Tuesday:** PE coaching 1-2pm

**Thursday:** Spanish and Gymnastics 1-3pm

**Friday:** Wider Opportunities Music (Y5) 9-10am

### **Homework**

Please can children continue to practise reading, spellings and times tables/division facts on a weekly basis at home. Other homework suggestions attached to this letter are optional, but they will complement and further enhance the learning that is taking place in class. Homework can be completed in the children's new Homework Books. Homework can be shown during the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> October and may be displayed, but may not necessarily be marked.

**We look forward to working with you all this year!  
Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you require any further information.**

**Miss C. Middlebrook**  
Teacher

**Mrs K. Anderson**  
1:1 Teaching Assistant

**Mrs S. Bertram**  
1:1 Teaching Assistant

