



Snowy Owls Autumn Term Update

Teacher: Miss C. Middlebrook
Support Assistants: Mrs J. Bourke and Mrs S. Bertram
Student Teacher: Mr N. Goodacre

We hope that you have enjoyed the Summer holiday and are ready to start the new year in Snowy Owls with myself, Mrs Bourke and Mrs Bertram! We are also fortunate to have Mr Goodacre joining us for the majority of the year to complete his Initial Teacher Training. Mr Goodacre will begin the year by joining us for serial days, before beginning his block placement in Snowy Owls class from October.

Topic

This term, our work will begin with the project '**Farming Through the Ages**', following the visit to the World Ploughing Event at Crockey Hill by our competition winners from the previous term who will have their 'Farming in the year 3000' posters displayed there. This topic will involve an exploration of how harvest and cultivation processes have evolved over the past 50-100 years and the modern technology that is now involved in producing British food. This will include a talk and simulation about Precision agriculture from Mr Turner, visits from vintage/modern tractors, as well as talks from local agricultural contractors and farmers. In Art, the children will develop their observational sketching skills and use of tone by sketching still life arrangements of harvest/Autumnal produce in various mediums. We will then apply these skills to sketching scenes of working horses and machinery from our visit to the ploughing match.

Following on from this, we will focus on the project '**Why should the rainforest be important to us all?**' This will begin with a visit from 'Animals-in-tuition', in which the children will learn about and handle real rainforest creatures, followed by a visit to Flamingo Land to learn about the rainforest. This will be a joint topic with Eagle Owls class and will culminate in the classes doing a performance called 'Rainmaker' at the end of the Autumn term.

Talk for Writing – Initially, we will focus on writing 'Stories set in places that we have been' and use the book 'Farm Boy' by Michael Morpurgo as a model text for this, with the recent ploughing match visit as an initial setting. 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 develop their ability to proof-read and edit their writing using polishing pens.

Grammar, Spelling and Handwriting

Grammar, Spelling and Handwriting will now be taught in year groups (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6). There will be an emphasis on excellent presentation in all work. Weekly spellings will be accessible on the Spellodrome website and the children will be encouraged to apply these correctly in their writing. Spellings will be assessed on a half termly basis.

Guided Reading

A new approach will be used for Guided Reading, based upon the website 'Fiction Express'. The class will read a chapter from the online book at the beginning of a week and vote on what they would like to happen next by 3pm on the Tuesday of every week. The writer of the book will then prepare the next chapter based upon the national vote. This will continue to develop the children's understanding of features, purposes and language of a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts.

Accelerated Reader

Children will complete the Star Reading assessment at the beginning of next week to assess which colour band of reading books they can borrow from the library to take AR quizzes on. However, the children will be encouraged to read a broad range of material, which they can access from my own books in the classroom and the school library. There will be an emphasis on encouraging the children to really aim high in their Accelerated Reader quizzes.

Maths – This will be taught in year groups using the Singapore Maths approach 'Maths – No Problem!'. The children will do whole class and guided practise on problems before completing independent practise in a workbook and writing their reflections in a Maths Journal. Regular practise of instant recall facts such as times tables and concepts such as time that you can do with your child to support their learning will be greatly appreciated.

Science – This term we will be learning about classification of animals and micro-organisms, before moving onto different types of teeth.

Music

Snowy Owls will continue to take part in the Wider Opportunities Programme for Music. This will take place 2-3pm on a Wednesday afternoon, starting on Wednesday 14th September. Please help your child to take care of any instruments and folders that they are given and remember to bring these in every Wednesday.

Routines

Please can you ensure that your child brings their full PE kit in at the start of the week and that all Library/Accelerated Reader books are returned to school when completed. Handball with Coach Stephen Jeff will take place for 4 weeks every Monday morning, commencing from 12.09.16.

Monday am: Handball with Coach Jeff

Wednesday pm: W.O.Ps Music session 2-3pm.

Friday: Times Table Challenge – please practise the times tables that you are given!

Homework

Please can children continue to practise reading, spellings and times tables/division facts on a weekly basis at home, as well as consolidating their ongoing learning in class. Other homework tasks are optional, but they will complement and further enhance the learning that is taking place in class. There will be opportunities at the end of each half term for the children to present the optional homework projects that they have completed at home. These can be kept in Homework Books if applicable.

Mathletics/Spellodrome

We use Mathletics and Spellodrome as an important part of our Maths and English curriculum. Through a unique username and password your child will have 24 hour access at home and school to this web-based learning program. We recommend that you spend time looking at the program with your child so that you can see how Mathletics/Spellodrome will benefit his or her learning. As a parent or guardian, you can sign up to receive weekly reports. These reports will provide you with details on your child's progress and achievement. To register for this service, you will need your child's username and password.

Visit www.mathletics.com/parents

Complete the fields and click Submit

Record your new username and password

To access the Parent Centre:

Visit the Mathletics website

Sign in using your own user details

Further information and guides on Mathletics can be found under the Help tab.

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
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