



## Snowy Owls Spring Term Update

Teacher: Miss C. Middlebrook  
Support Assistants: Mrs J. Bourke and Mrs S. Bertram

We hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas holiday and are ready to start the new year in Snowy Owls with myself, Mrs Bourke and Mrs Bertram!

### Topic

This term, our work will focus on the project **'Why was there an English Civil War and what impact did it have on our locality?'** This History topic will involve an exploration of the long and short-term causes of the English Civil and the impact that this had on the English landscape, as well as the local area in the Battle of Selby.

**Talk for Writing** – Initially, we will focus on writing adventure stories in a magical setting, with a focus on 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. We will also explore non-fiction writing such as newspaper reports and argument writing /debating linked to our topic of the English Civil War, and other text types linked to our Fiction Express Guided Reading. 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 continue to be taught in year groups (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6). I will now be teaching the Year 5 cohort group for these subjects. There will be a continued focus on excellent presentation in all work. Weekly spellings will continue to be accessible on the Spellodrome website, as well as copies being sent home in Spelling Journals, and the children will be encouraged to apply these correctly in their writing. Spellings will be assessed weekly through the bingo game that we play and other activities.

### **Guided Reading**

We will begin reading the new Fiction Express book 'The Gypsy Girl' next week. 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, as well as completing a range of writing-based activities linked to the chapter throughout the week. The writer of the book will then prepare the next chapter based upon the national vote. If chapters are sent home on a Friday in preparation for the next week, then please can you help your child to read this as this will aid them in our next session.

### **Accelerated Reader/Independent reading**

Children will complete another Star Reading assessment at the end of each half term 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 is an increasing emphasis on encouraging the children to really aim high in their Accelerated Reader quizzes and we will have a class leader board to encourage this. **Please can you try to listen to/encourage your child to read every night and sign their green 'Home-School Link' book to show that they have done this.**

**Maths** – This will continue to 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/methods in a Maths Journal. Regular practise of times tables for the weekly challenge on a Friday, and concepts, such as time, that you can do with your child to support their learning continue to be greatly appreciated.

**Science –** This term we will be learning about changes in materials, including dissolving, separating mixtures and reversible/irreversible changes. This will include a 'Ready steady bake' British Bake-off theme, looking at soil samples and other practical investigations.

### **Music**

Snowy Owls will continue to take part in the Wider Opportunities Programme for Music. This will continue to take place 2-3pm on a Wednesday afternoon. 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. Children have opportunities to take Accelerated Reader quizzes every morning and most afternoons during registration.

**Monday am:** Guided Reading

**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](http://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.

### **Parents' Evenings**

These will be in the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> February and there will be another shorter session for Snowy Owls class in the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> March to accommodate the class size.

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

**Miss C. Middlebrook**  
Teacher

**Mrs J. Bourke**  
Teaching Assistant

**Mrs S. Bertram**  
Teaching Assistant