



Snowy Owls Summer Term Update

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

We hope that you have enjoyed the Easter holiday and are ready for an exciting Summer term in Snowy Owls Class with myself, Mrs Bourke and Mrs Bertram!

Topic

This term, we will begin by continuing to focus on the project **'Why was the Second World War an important turning point in British history?'**, completing our work on The Blitz, creating Battle of Britain RAF Spitfire planes, exploring the evacuation of children during WW2 and leading up to half term with a focus on rationing, 'Dig for Victory' and how to use rationing recipes to create a WW2 meal. We will also begin to look at **'What does the 2017 General Election mean for Britain?'**. This will involve exploring what a General Election is, what each political party stands for, democracy and the voting process, children creating their own political parties and election campaigns/manifestoes. We will also move onto work on growing vegetables and food production in relation to our Science topic about plant/animal lifecycles and our visit to the Yorkshire Agricultural Society Countryside Day on Tuesday 13th June! Alongside this, we will be learning about the Egyptians and their culture/beliefs.

Talk for Writing – In relation to our WW2 topic, we will focus on the text 'Goodnight Mister Tom' by Michelle Magorian and develop our letter writing in this context. We will also explore non-fiction writing such as argument writing /debating and journalistic writing in the context of the forthcoming General Election. We will also explore writing explanation texts for our Science topic and to explain the activities completed at the Countryside Day and on the Manchester visit. 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 continue to teach 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 on TP liaison slips, 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 have begun reading the new Fiction Express book 'Spacejacked' this 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. Children can access the next chapter using their personal login from a Friday afternoon. Some children will also take part in reciprocal reading sessions based on 'Goodnight Mister Tom'.

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. If your child has not yet achieved their 5 point certificate, then please encourage 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. Year 5s will finish the fractions unit, then we will move onto decimals, percentages and measurements. Regular practise of times tables for the weekly challenge on a Friday, and concepts, such as time, fractions and measures that you can do with your child to support their learning continue to be greatly appreciated.

Science – This term we will be learning about plant and animal reproduction, amphibian and insect life-cycles, mammal and fish lifecycles, and how humans change as they grow older. This will include visits from real young animals wherever possible, a visit to the Countryside Day and a possible visit to Stockbridge Technology Centre.

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. There will be an end of year performance which parents will be invited to at the beginning of July.

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. Please ensure that library books are returned and left in a good condition.

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!

Tuesday 13th June – Visit to the Countryside Day (further information will follow).

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. I was really impressed by the homework that was completed last term!

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 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