



Gisburn Road Community Primary School Autumn Term I – September to October 2023



WELCOME TO YEAR 4! Burrowing Owls

We hope that you and your families are all well and that you have had a lovely break over the summer. It will be great to see parents and friends in school and we look forward to seeing you all during this first term. We have some great topics and exciting activities planned and we can't wait to get started.

Remember to keep up to date with our school Facebook page. If you would like to pass on any urgent information, I will be on the yard each evening but you can also contact the office on 812287; Mrs Barwell will pass on any important information.

Mrs Whittaker and Miss Pearson

PSHE – As of September 2020, this is now a statutory subject for all Primary and Secondary Schools. Here at GRCPS we have always taught PSHE on our timetable. We are now following the PSHE Association's scheme of work for PSHE. Our Governing Body have made the decision that Sex Education will be taught in Year 6. **This is a non- statutory part of the curriculum and parents can choose to 'opt out' of this section of the curriculum.** On our newsletters we will inform you what is coming up each half term so you are aware and Mrs Toor will send a consent letter to parents at the appropriate time.

Here is what your child will be learning about this half term-Families and Friendships:

- about the features of positive healthy and strategies to build positive friendships
- how to seek support with relationships if they feel lonely or excluded
- how to communicate respectfully with friends when using digital devices
- what to do or whom to tell if they are worried about any contact online

English – In English this half term, our work will be focused around 'The Loch Ness Monster'.

Firstly we will read a selection of non-fiction texts to research the history of Nessie. We will practise using a range of subordinating conjunctions to write complex sentences and develop our understanding of key vocabulary before we write an article for a magazine titled, 'Does the Loch Ness monster exist?' We will then read an adventure story based on the story of the Loch Ness monster. As we read, we will look at how the characters develop within the story, we will look at how the author uses fronted adverbials and we will then write our own adventure stories using the story as a model.



Mathematics – During this half term, we will be focusing on several different areas of maths. We will be practising our times tables every day and this is something that you can really make a difference with, by practising at home.

☺ We will focus on developing our understanding of place value in numbers up to 4 digits and decimal numbers. Also, we will develop our strategies to add and subtract numbers. Finally we will be practising our measuring skills, including finding the perimeter of shapes.



Science – This half term we will be learning about 'states of matter'. We will investigate solids, liquids and gases, before classifying them according to their properties. As our understanding develops, we will write and use our own definitions for solids, liquids and gases. We will investigate what happens to some materials when they are heated and cooled, using our observational skills to record our findings. Finally, we will look at the water cycle to identify how evaporation and condensation are part of this process.

Computing – This half term we will understand that software can be used collaboratively online to work as a team. We will look at what type of comments and suggestions on a collaborative document can be helpful. We will find out that you can use images, text, transitions and animation in presentation slides.

Religious Education – In R.E, the children will be looking at the key question of ‘How should we live our life?’ In this half term, our focus is on Hinduism, and what a Hindu might learn from celebrating Diwali. We will revisit the story of Rama and Sita and develop our understanding of good overcoming evil and focus on the idea of light may be a symbol of goodness and hope. Finally, we will learn about how Hindus celebrate Diwali.



Art- Our work in art for this final half term will focus on drawing. We will look at the work of several artists with a focus on shape and pattern, before we look at patterns in animals. We will develop our drawing skills to design a repeating pattern for a Dragon.



History- During this half term, we will compare different civilisations. We will use enquiry skills to look at the daily lives of the Ancient Egyptians, the mummification process and the roles of two significant people;



be going back in time to study ancient civilisations. Throughout our research we will focus on Ancient Egypt. We will investigate how civilisations develop and the impact of today. On our trip to Blackburn Museum we will see Egyptian mummies, we will then investigate the different Gods and purpose of the pyramids. Finally, Howard Carter and Tutankhamun

Physical Education – In this first half term, the children will have two PE lessons each week. We will be focusing on athletics and net and wall games. In our games lessons, children will develop their throwing and catching skills before practising striking the ball using their hand, a bat and a racquet. In our athletics lessons, children will improve their throwing and jumping skills using a variety of techniques and aim to improve their performance as they work.

Music- Based on the theme of Ancient Egypt, children learn to identify the pitch and rhythm of written notes and experiment with notating their compositions, developing their understanding of staff notation.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **PE DAYS : Year 4 have** P.E on Tuesday and Thursday. Please ensure your child has both their indoor and outdoor PE kit in school for those days.
- **Home Learning:** Home learning is set on Fridays and should be handed in by the following Thursday. Each week, your child will have spellings to practise, a maths task and reading homework.
- **Reading:** We love reading! It is still vital that your child reads every day in Year 4. We have established our reading challenge with children earning rewards based on how many times an adult at home has listened to them read and signed their reading diary. By reading regularly your child will develop fluency and comprehension skills and will also help them to improve their writing skills.

