



Gisburn Road Community Primary School Autumn Term I – September to October 2022



WELCOME TO SOOTY 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 half term.

Remember to keep up to date with our school Facebook page, Twitter and the class page on the website. You can send children's Home Learning via the cohort e-mail address of sootyowls@gisburnroad.com. Whilst school is open and I am in class teaching, I will respond to any emails on **Tuesdays**. 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; Miss Bond will pass on any important information.

Mrs Holman and Mrs Wood

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 – During this half-term we will be looking online safety.

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- Our history topic for this half term is one that is close to home! We will be looking at the history of transport in Barnoldswick with a key focus on the canal and railway station. It would be great if any families have any memories, maps, photographs etc. that would be useful for us during this topic. Especially if there are any family members who can remember the railway station. Please let us know (on the yard, or by email) if you would be able to come in to talk to the class. Throughout the topic, we will be focusing on chronology and look at different sources to find out about Barnoldswick in the past.

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- Our music lessons will focus on the skill of structure. Firstly, we will investigate how to use paper to make different sounds and then create a repeated pattern using these. We will then use junk materials to make simple instruments to improvise a piece of music. Finally, we will perform bhangra style chants and rhythms.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Diary Dates:

Thursday 2nd September: Autumn term

Friday 17th September: Harvest Festival

Friday 24th September 9:00am: McMillan coffee morning

Wednesday 6th October: School open day

Thursday 7th October: National Poetry Day

Thursday 14th October pm: Year 4 Water Workshop (in class)

Tuesday 19th October pm: Year 4 History museum- more details to follow

Friday 22nd October: Half term

- **PE DAYS :** Sooty Owls have P.E on Tuesday and Friday. 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. Each half term, your child will also have a menu of tasks linked to our topics in school. It would be great if your child could complete at least one of these during the half term.
- **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.

