

Gorseybrigg Primary School and Nursery

Curriculum Matters



Term **Autumn 2**
Year Group **5**
Teacher **Mrs R MacLeod**

Please note that not all subject areas will necessarily be taught each term and we cannot write down everything we teach!

Topic

Victorian Children

This term we will be exploring the Victorian period through the lives of children with particular emphasis on:

- Working children including factory workers, mine workers, domestic servants and chimney sweeps.
- Workhouses and Dr Barnardo's work with street children
- Education and the differences between Victorian and modern schools
- Public health and sanitation

Children will experience a Victorian school day, a workhouse morning and learn more about Victorian health through a talk from a local expert on historical medicine.

Literacy

We will read and write diaries, descriptions and recounts; using our knowledge of the lives and experiences of working children.

Our class book is 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty and we will use this to study how a writer portrays different characters. Children will complete a reading diary to track their responses.

In spelling lessons, we will be studying prefixes and homophones.

Numeracy

We will be following the National Curriculum for Year 5.

The topics for this term are:

- Formal written methods and informal mental methods for multiplication and division
- Factors and multiples
- Square and cube numbers

We will deepen our understanding of these topics with lessons on reasoning and explaining.

Art and ICT

In art we will examine work by the Victorian artist William Morris and create our own designs for wallpaper and textiles. We will be looking at the popular Victorian technique of silhouette cutting and will make our own Victorian peg dolls.

In ICT we will create presentations including pictures, text, animations, hyperlinks and embedded sound. We will evaluate the design and layout of multimedia resources.

Science

In science we will continue with the topic of Forces. Following on from work on gravity, friction and air resistance, we will look at water resistance and study the life and discoveries of Isaac Newton.

Later in the term, we will make and use levers, pulleys and gears to help us understand how balanced and unbalanced forces can be used.

PE and GAMES

Gymnastic sessions will include work on apparatus.

In Games we will be improving basketball and hockey skills and playing small sided games.

Helping at Home

English

Some children will still benefit from reading aloud to an adult. Very fluent readers should be encouraged to read regularly. Please encourage children to talk about the books they are reading – children who read for pleasure have a huge educational advantage. All children will be expected to read *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty. We will provide copies (although if you have your own that would be very helpful). You can support your child to keep up with reading targets at home and complete the reading diary – this would be very valuable.

Novels with a Victorian setting that your children might enjoy reading on their own or sharing with an adult include the *Hetty Feather* series (Jacqueline Wilson) and *Tom's Midnight Garden* (Phillippa Pearce). I will be encouraging children to read another book by our featured author, Berlie Doherty. *The Starbustler* is great for less confident readers and *Spellhorn* for those wanting a challenge.

Maths

All children in Year 5 should be able to recall both times tables and division tables at speed and out of order. This is now an urgent target. We have a weekly speed test for practice.

If you wish to practise calculation methods at home, children should be fluent in standard formal addition, subtraction, short and long multiplication and short division.

Any visits, books or artifacts about Victorians that the children can access will enhance their learning, especially when writing. You could visit the coal-mining museum in Wakefield if you would like a themed day out!