Roald Dahl Fact Sheet and Follow Up Activities

1. He was born on 13 September 1916 in Llandaff, Cardiff.
2. His parents were Norwegian.
3. He did not start writing for children until he had children of his own and wrote 21 books for children in total, including picture books, novels, and poetry collections.
4. He wrote all of his children's stories in a small hut at the bottom of his garden.
5. He was a Hurricane fighter pilot during World War II.
6. He had two steel hips and six operations on his spine.
7. He was 1.96 metres tall.
8. He was fluent in three languages: English, Norwegian and Swahili.
9. He wrote the screenplays for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and the Bond movie You Only Live Twice.
10. He had a dog called Chopper.
11. He originally wrote short stories for adults which were later published as Tales of the Unexpected.
12. He loved chocolate, but not chocolate cake or chocolate ice cream.
13. He used to announce that meals were ready by shouting “Nosebags On!” or “Grub’s Up!”
14. He always wrote in pencil on yellow paper.
15. He died on 23 November 1990 and is buried in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Great Missenden with some items that he treasured.
16. His total UK sales exceed 50 million paperbacks.

Some Research Ideas (Follow up):
1. Find out why/how Roald Dahl came to speak fluent Swahili.
2. Which of his children’s books was first to be published?
3. What items was he buried with?
4. Which of his books has sold the most copies?
5. Can you visit the hut he used to write in?

Further Ideas: Activities
1. Research Roald Dahl further and produce your own factsheet.
2. Write a factsheet about yourself:
   - what do you like writing about?
   - what story or poem which you have written are you most proud of?
   - who is your favourite author and why?
   - write a short fun story about yourself, taking inspiration from some of Roald Dahl’s characters.