

Spring Term Overview

Tutor Group: 8D

Subject and Teacher	Subject Overview	How you can help at home	Subject specific key words to practise with your child
<p>English Mrs Fisher Mrs Kelley</p>	<p>This term we will be exploring non-fiction reading and writing, by investigating a wide range of factual texts. We will explore the Titanic disaster through newspaper articles, a range of advertisements to interrogate methods to persuade the reader and touch on real-life reportage so students may develop their understanding of the implicit and explicit, and bias. By exploring speeches and guides we will learn how transactional writing works to achieve a range of purposes. This term we will explore the uses of applied English, so students are better prepared for using communication in everyday life.</p>	<p>Please encourage your child to read age-appropriate news articles with you and then have conversations about why the journalist commented in a particular way about the issue so that they may further explore 'bias.' An awareness of current affairs will really support your child's learning, so please involve them in discussions on a range of non-fiction topics in your conversations at home.</p> <p>Reading continues to be an essential element in students' development; please listen to your child read weekly, and encourage daily reading, potentially as they wind down in preparation for bed.</p>	<p>Heroes/Heroines Sacrifice Persuasive Language Emotive Language Decoding Analysing Empathy</p>
<p>Maths Mrs Diapouli</p>	<p>To start the term, pupils will be developing their understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages. We will be looking at the relationship between them and equivalences. We will use them in calculations.</p> <p>Within the area of geometry, pupils will be learning about basic angle rules and different units of measure for length, mass and volume. Pupils will be introduced to algebra and begin to understand how letters are used to represent general situations.</p>	<p>Please encourage your child to undertake their homework using paper to show working.</p> <p>Please encourage them to take notice of maths around them e.g. linking in fractions and decimals in cooking tasks, reading the time, using money, etc.</p>	<p>Equivalent Area, Perimeter, Volume, Algebra, Represent Numerator, Denominator, Equivalent, Decimal, Percentage.</p>

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Maths Mrs Sipek	This term pupils will be extending their understanding of multiplication and division calculations, looking at different ways to show and calculate problems. They will then spend some time developing their time telling skills. In term 4 pupils will explore fractions, decimals and percentages ranging from fractions of amounts, equivalent fractions to decimal equivalents and simplifying fractions. Pupils will then practise their measurement skills linked to length, weight, capacity, angles, time and money.	Please encourage your child to undertake their homework using paper to show working. Please encourage pupils to take notice of maths around them e.g. linking in fractions and decimals in cooking tasks, reading the time, using money, etc.	Volume, Capacity, Metre, Centimetre, Millimetre Kilogram, Gram, Hour, Minute, Second.

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<p>Science Mrs Matalu and Miss Postans</p>	<p>This term we move onto our first Biology topic - infection and disease. We will be looking at the human body and microorganisms including pathogens. The pupils will discover how these microorganisms enter our body and illnesses can spread. We will also look at how medicines including vaccines can be used to support the fight against illness. We will also be discovering how we can keep ourselves healthy through a healthy lifestyle including diet and exercise. This topic will conclude by looking at the diseases that can be caused through an imbalanced diet, including obesity, starvation and deficiency diseases.</p> <p>Next term our topic will also be a Biology topic, Competition & Classification. This topic will start with the pupils looking at how scientists classify living things and then how we can use different classification keys to identify organisms we are not familiar with. The pupils will then learn how organisms can change due to different pressures including changes in habitat and competition. Finally, we will move onto looking at land, water and air pollution.</p>	<p>You can support your child by discussing their diet, and whether it is balanced and providing all the nutrients they need. Talk about ways that we can limit the spread of communicable diseases (washing hands, good personal hygiene etc) and encourage your child and the family to make an extra effort with these.</p> <p>When in the garden or out on a walk point out any of the different plants and animals and look at their different features and characteristics: size / shape of leaves, colour, position of eyes etc.</p> <p>Discuss the different ways in which humans can pollute the land, water and air and what we can do as individuals to minimise the effect we have on these.</p>	<p>Microorganism Pathogen Characteristics Vaccination Symptoms Classification Feature Vertebrate Invertebrate Adaptation Competition</p>

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Art (Mrs Berry)	<p><u>Beetles and Bugs</u></p> <p>The Year 8 topic of Beetles and Bugs continues with beautiful large-scale collages based on the work of Peter Clark. Pupils will also be learning about the work of Rosalind Monks and her intricate, patterned beetles, bees and moths. They will work in both sketchbooks and on a larger scale using ink, collage, metallic pens and paper, and watercolour pencils to create large beetles, butterflies, and bugs.</p>	<p>Have a look at these websites with your child. They show a great selection of the work of the Artists they will be studying this term.</p> <p>Peter Clark Portland Gallery</p> <p>Rosalind Monks</p> <p>Rosalind Monks — Capsules</p>	Peter Clark Rosalind Monks Intricate Embellish Blend Symmetry
DT Miss Jackson	<p>This term, pupils will continue to develop their embellishment techniques for their natural forms-inspired cushions. They will focus on refining their textile skills to translate their designs onto fabric, before using the sewing machine to assemble the cushions. The final steps will involve stuffing the cushions and finishing them with slip stitching. Next, pupils will begin their second project, which involves working with resistant materials to create a moving toy. They will explore different types of movement and aim to incorporate motion into their designs. Pupils will also learn a variety of woodworking techniques, such as sawing, filing, and sanding, to construct their moving toy.</p>	<p>To support your child at home, you could explore objects around the house that move and discuss how they might move and in which directions. Encourage your child to think about the mechanisms behind the movement.</p> <p>You could also look at a variety of resistant materials, such as wood, plastic, and metal, and talk about their different properties and uses in creating objects that move.</p>	Construction Movement Motion Mechanisms Cam and follower

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Geography Mrs Petrie	Pupils will learn about different biomes in the world, including; desert, grassland, tundra, taiga, tropical rainforest, deciduous forests and savannah. Pupils will study what the climate and environment is like in each biome and will learn how plants and animals adapt to survive. This will require pupils to draw on and enrich their learning on the continents of the World. We will then explore the polar biomes and will learn about the importance of the Arctic and Antarctica.	You can help your child by looking at the distribution of different biomes in an atlas, read about the polar biomes and learn more about the Arctic and Antarctica.	Arctic Antarctica Biome Continent Polar Tundra Rainforest Desert

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<p>Computing Mr Altman</p>	<p>At the start of this term pupils will undertake a graphics project using Serif Draw Plus to design a magazine cover and these are skills that they will revisit later in term 4. They will also develop their skills in Microsoft PowerPoint to create an interactive app. In term 3 pupils will be introduced to the basics of binary code. Towards the end of term 4 they will look into game design and construction using Scratch.</p>	<p>If pupils wish to complete or develop work at home, then they can access work on their OneDrive via RM Unify</p> <p>If pupils enjoy using Kodu to develop games, then Kodu Game Lab is free to download.</p>	<p>Graphic Layers Effects Interactive Binary</p>
<p>Music Mrs Lea</p>	<p>In Music this term, pupils will be learning about Rhythm and Pulse. Pupils will be introduced to the importance of pulse as a fundamental upon which music is built and performed. Through the integrated activities of performing, composing and listening, pupils will begin development of their own feeling for and awareness of a regular pulse. Pupils will be able to make a clear distinction between pulse and rhythm and learn to use rhythm grids as a method of recording rhythm patterns. Pupils will perform and compose rhythm patterns of differing complexity including rests, half-beats and accents.</p>	<p>When listening to music at home, encourage your child to 'feel' the beat and tap, clap or dance along. Are they able to count the pulse pattern and see if the song is in patterns of 2,3 or 4?</p>	<p>Pulse Rhythm Accent Ostinato</p>

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<p>PSD Mrs Diapouli</p>	<p>In this term the pupils will focus on 'The World we live in' and explore many interesting areas. Pupils will explore diversity rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>Pupils will then explore managing information online, developing the ability to recognise advertising, posts and news may not be fully trustworthy. Pupils will then cover areas such as looking after the environment and preparing for adulthood where they will explore different jobs and how to manage finances.</p>	<p>Pupils can watch shows such as Newsround which will provide them with child friendly information about what is happening in the world.</p> <p>Pupils can also read information websites such as BBC Bitesize, where they can explore topics such as rights and diversity.</p>	<p>Rights Advertising Trustworthy Employment Career</p>
<p>R&W Miss Jackson</p>	<p>This term, pupils will explore important questions about sin, salvation, and the existence of suffering, considering perspectives from a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. They will examine how different traditions, including Christianity, Buddhism, and Humanism, understand the concepts of sin and salvation, and how these ideas shape responses to moral and ethical challenges. Pupils will then reflect on the profound question, "Why is there suffering?" and evaluate whether there are good solutions to this universal human experience. As part of this, they will explore how faith and belief systems, such as Buddhism, offer guidance and comfort in difficult times. This unit encourages pupils to think deeply about diverse beliefs and develop a compassionate and respectful understanding of differing worldviews.</p>	<p>You can support your child's learning by encouraging thoughtful conversations about the topics covered, such as suffering and how people of different beliefs find meaning and hope in difficult times. Reading about or discussing real-life examples of faith in action can also help deepen their understanding.</p>	<p>Sin Salvation Suffering Faith Buddhism Humanism Ethics Belief Worldview Compassion</p>

