

Autumn 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
English Mrs Kelley & Miss King	This term the class will be reading the novel, Stich Head. We will be focusing on strategies to understand meaning, such as predicting what will happen, exploring the images for inferred meaning, exploring genre, visualizing details from the book and empathising. We will also aim to identify the writer's main points, to identify different opinions in the text and how these link together and are sequenced. In addition we will be using our inference skills to work things out from clues and the many images that help to propel the storytelling in the text. Our homework will be reading a book of our own choice and learning our spellings.	You can support this at home with pre-reading, or rereading, and discussion. The book is one of a series so you may wish to take your child to the library to explore the other books of the series. You could read a book of their choice with them and ask them questions about what they think about the characters and the plot. Stich Head has been adapted into a film, so you might want to look out for this when it is released in late October, and as a treat go to the cinema!	Freak Circus Monster Contortion Friendship Isolation Acceptance Loyalty Emotive Inference

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Maths Mrs Webb	This term, our maths learning will begin with a focus on Number and the Number System. Pupils will work at their own level to deepen their understanding of place value, practise partitioning numbers, write numbers in words, and use number lines to support their learning. Next, we will move on to Counting and Comparing, where pupils will estimate, order, and compare numbers, while also developing their fluency in skip-counting. Following this, we will explore Addition and Subtraction, reinforcing key strategies for mental and written calculations. To round off the term, our focus will shift to Geometry, where pupils will identify and describe the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes, using mathematical language to discuss their features with increasing confidence.	Practise key skills such as counting, skip-counting, times tables, number bonds and estimating at home. Topmarks has some engaging maths games https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=16	Ones, tens, hundreds, thousands Compare Add/subtract Order Partition

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Science Mrs Matalu	This term, our topic is Forces, Speed and Work done. Pupils will be learning to sort different forces into contact and non-contact forces and to identify whether friction is useful or not in different situations. They will also learn that the earth moves around the sun and the moon moves around the earth due to gravity. Finally, we will learn about relative motion and be able to explain the effect of relative motion using examples of two objects moving along a straight line. After half term, our topic will be acids, alkalis and rates of reaction. Pupils will learn to identify acids, alkalis and neutral solutions from their pH and how to neutralise substances. They will take part in practicals to find out that acids react with oxides to create salt and water, and with carbonates to create salt, water and carbon dioxide. They will be able to identify whether a reaction is endothermic or exothermic based on whether energy is released or taken in. Finally, they will learn that collisions between particles are needed for reactions to take place and about catalysts and the effect they have on reaction rates.	You can help your child by using BBC Bitesize resources about Forces for the first half-term: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zs3896f#zb92qfr For the second term you can use these BBC Bitesize resources about Acids and Alkalis: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zn6hvcw	Contact force Non-contact force Friction Gravity Relative motion Acid Alkali Neutral Endothermic Exothermic

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Art Mrs Berry	Beetles and Bug We are working on the topic Beetles and Bugs. Pupils are exploring the imaginative collage work of Peter Clark, who uses materials such as wrapping paper, graph paper, maps, and newspapers to bring his art to life. Inspired by his approach, they are creating their own insects – beetles, butterflies, and other bugs – both in sketchbooks and on a larger scale. They are experimenting with inks, collage, metallic pens, and watercolour pencils to produce richly detailed pieces.	Have a look at these websites with your child. Tate Kids is a great resource with lots of information and fun ideas! Tate Kids Peter clark collage	Peter Clark Collage Layer Emphasise Symmetry

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DT Ms Rubringer	This term, we are working with textiles to create a cushion inspired by natural forms. We are developing existing skills and introducing the sewing machine. We will be revisiting health and safety with a particular focus on Sewing machines and other textiles safety hazards (such as irons). The design process will involve: • Moodboard • Product analysis • Primary research observation drawings • Designing with annotations • Decoration using a range of textile techniques such as Fabric inks, Machine Applique and Block Printing • Following a template • Stuffing • Using the sewing machine to construct fabric • Peer assessment and Evaluation	When in nature, talk about the shapes and patterns that you see and think about how these could be used in design. You could also talk to your child about careful use of irons and scissors. If you are a sewing machine user, have a go together.	Natural Forms Applique Bobbin Tension Threading Construction

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PE Mr Altman & Mr Stinton	This term, we are focusing on health-related fitness and exploring different types of training. Our aim is to improve overall fitness through circuit training activities tailored to various training methods. Pupils will learn a wide range of exercises, including free-weight movements, bodyweight exercises, and cardio-based activities. In the first few lessons, we will conduct fitness tests to establish a baseline, allowing us to measure progress by the end of the term. Throughout the term, we will discuss key components of fitness—such as muscular strength and cardiovascular endurance—and identify exercises and circuits that target these areas effectively. We will also apply this knowledge to real-life sports scenarios, examining which components of fitness are most important for different types of athletes. The overarching goal is to develop pupils' understanding of how to lead a healthy, active lifestyle.	To help your child you can: Complete research around the components of fitness. Watch YouTube videos of athletes from across a variety of sports such as: • Football • Rugby • Tennis • Olympic Lifting • Rowing	Exercise Fitness Co-ordination Balance Movement Cardio Muscles Healthy Unhealthy

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History Mrs Mitchell-Dyer	In Year 8, pupils will be studying the Tudors, a period in English history from 1485 to 1603. They will learn about key monarchs like Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, the Reformation and its impact on England, what life was like for rich and poor people, Tudor crime and punishment, and England's rise as a global power through exploration. This fascinating topic will help them understand how the Tudors influenced modern England.	There are great local History sites in this area, which would be good for your child to visit. You can also watch Horrible History videos on BBC iPlayer.	Tudor Henry VIII Elizabeth I Reformation Exploration
Geography Mrs Petrie	This term, pupils will be learning about the powerful natural forces that shape our planet, focusing on earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. They will discover how the Earth is structured, how it is divided into tectonic plates, and why these plates move to create such dramatic events. Pupils will explore the global distribution of volcanoes, earthquakes, and plate boundaries, while also studying specific examples of hazards around the world. They will consider why people continue to live in areas at risk, how communities prepare for these dangers, and what it is like to experience life near a volcano or during an earthquake. Through this, pupils will develop their geographical skills by using maps, atlases, and enquiry methods to describe and explain tectonic processes and their impacts on people and places.	Please talk about the environment with your child and support them to identify and classify human and physical geographical features. It can be helpful to encourage them to take an interest in environmental and geographical stories that appear in the news including newsworthy stories on weather, climate, volcanoes, earthquakes or any topics related to continents. In addition, news and sport provide good conversation starters to reinforce the names of cities, countries and continents. BBC Bitesize is very useful for Geography content. Link here Structure of the Earth - The Earth and atmosphere - KS3 Chemistry - BBC Bitesize	Core Mantel Earthquake Lava Tectonic plates Volcano Boundary

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Food Studies Ms Tyler	This term, pupils will explore the bold and flavourful cuisine of Spain, learning how to safely handle meat, shape and seal pastries, and layer herbs and spices into their cooking. They will build confidence working with rice, exploring Spanish and Portuguese influences through dishes like empanadas, Spanish meatballs, and paella. In Autumn 2, pupils transition into Seasonal Christmas Baking. They will explore yeast doughs, festive flavourings, no-bake treats, and healthier swaps for sugar and fat. This half-term reinforces mixing, folding, and baking precision, while encouraging creativity in decorating and presentation.	Talk through the recipe sheet which pupils bring home and discuss the steps which they have completed – ask pupils which steps in the recipe they enjoyed and which parts they found tricky. If there are any opportunities at home where you re-create dishes or baked goods, please send in photographic evidence via Weduc.	Baking Boiling Crimping Filling Flavour infusion Grating Grilling Layering Mixing
Computing Mr Robinson & Mr Naylor	This term we will be refreshing our presentation skills using Microsoft Power Point. Pupils will revisit internet safety skills and construct an online safety guide using Microsoft Publisher and learn more about computer hardware for input, output and storage. In term 2 the pupils will explore networks and how they work, create a range of functional programs using Microbits and learn how a spreadsheet can be used to track sales items in Microsoft Excel.	When using online devices, ask and discuss what the dangers might be with the site being used, ask how these dangers could be minimised, and who could help if there was an issue or problem?	Slide Animation Transition SMART Input device Output device Storage Program Spreadsheet Formula

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Music Mrs Lea	In Music this term we will be recapping pupils understanding of the key elements of music with a particular focus on rhythm. Pupils will be learning about rhythm using a variety of drums, such as djembe's and bongos. We will be learning about different cultures and playing rhythmic patterns as a group and in pairs. Pupils will learn about call and response and how to create their own.	Please encourage your child to listen to a wide variety of music at home including music from different cultures and countries and discuss the differences to Western music.	Rhythm Call and Response Texture Culture Timbre
Drama Miss Price	In term 1, pupils will be learning about miming and comedy. They will continue to develop key drama skills such as characterisation, body language, facial expressions, freeze frames, rehearsing and performing while developing their miming skills and learning about different comedy styles and silent movies. During term 2, pupils will move on to learn about the comedy style of Pantomimes. Pupils will learn about the different characters and theatrical conventions in Pantomime ("boo/hissing," "He's behind you!", "Oh no it isn't/Oh yes it is etc) as well as developing their key drama skills. They will also have the opportunity to watch clips from different Pantomimes.	Encourage pupils to watch different silent movie clips, and mimed comedy shows such as Mr Bean, and discuss how the actor uses body language and facial expressions to play the character clearly. Ask pupils the different types of characters found in Pantomimes.	Silent movies Body language Plot Title cards Miming Slapstick comedy Facial expressions Characters Movement Pantomime

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PSD Mrs Mitchell-Dyer	In PSD, pupils will focus on the topic of Healthy Living. They will explore the importance of maintaining a balanced diet, engaging in regular physical activity, and adopting positive daily routines. Pupils will also develop an understanding of how these choices contribute to their overall wellbeing and learn strategies to make informed, responsible decisions that support a healthy lifestyle. Through guided discussions, activities, and practical experiences, they will strengthen their knowledge, confidence, and personal responsibility in relation to their health.	You can support your child's learning by encouraging them to eat balanced meals, take part in regular physical activity, and follow good daily routines such as getting enough sleep. Talking with your child about healthy choices can help reinforce what they learn at school and support their overall wellbeing.	Nutrition Exercise Hygiene Wellbeing Lifestyle

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R&W Miss Jackson	During the autumn term we will be introducing pupils to three Eastern religions: Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Pupils will begin by reflecting on the importance of learning about different beliefs and worldviews in an inclusive, respectful, and empathetic way. They will then explore the core stories, beliefs, practices, and festivals of each religion. Through Buddhism, pupils will learn about the life of the Buddha, the Four Noble Truths, and the practice of meditation. They will consider how festivals such as Wesak are celebrated. In Hinduism, pupils will explore ideas about Brahman, different deities, karma and reincarnation, before focusing on the festival of Diwali and its symbolism of light over darkness. Within Sikhism, pupils will learn about Guru Nanak and the Ten Gurus, Sikhism beliefs about equality and service, and the practices of langar and worship in the Gurdwara (the Sikhism place of worship). R&W lessons will always provide an opportunity to consider a range of religious and worldviews, and in this unit pupils will also be supported to reflect on similarities and differences between these traditions, as well as their impact on British society today.	You can help your child at home by asking about the stories and beliefs they are learning about in class and by encouraging them to value the diversity of belief in our society. With your support, they will soon be able to name and explain some key worldviews and religions in the UK. BBC bitesize is a lovely resource for going into a little more depth at home and there are some age-appropriate videos on Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism which can help support their learning. Buddhism: Facts about Buddhism – KS3 Religious Studies – BBC Bitesize Hinduism: Facts about Hinduism – KS3 Religious Studies – BBC Bitesize Sikhism: Key facts about Sikhism – KS3 Religious Studies – BBC Bitesize	Words: Buddha Four Noble Truths Meditation Wesak Brahman Karma Reincarnation Diwali Guru Nanak Gurdwara Langar Khanda

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Outdoor Learning Mrs Barlow	This term, Year 8 pupils will focus on safe practice by learning about the potential dangers of both garden and woodland plants and why understanding them is important for living alongside nature responsibly. Their sessions will take place in the Sensory Garden, George's Farm, and the Forest School, where they will develop practical skills in using tools safely. Pupils will practise pruning, coppicing, and thinning woodland areas as part of our three-year environmental plan, exploring the benefits these practices bring to the wider ecosystem. Throughout the seasons, pupils will build on their knowledge to help manage and maintain our school gardens.	How you can support at home: Encourage your child to explore your garden, or visit a local park or woodland area. Ask them to look closely at plants and take photos using a phone (Google Lens or the iPhone photo tool are useful for identification). Together, you could investigate just two plants or weeds by asking: Is it poisonous to humans or pets? Can it cause skin irritation? What benefits does the plant have for nature? Is it edible or useful to people? This approach will help pupils apply classroom learning in real-life contexts, while deepening their understanding of the natural world.	Risk assessment Coexistence Coppice Prune Spiny/ thorny Poisonous Irritant Habitat Sustainable Tool safety