

Autumn Term Overview

Tutor Group: 7M

Subject and Teacher	Subject Overview	How you can help at home	Subject specific key words to practise with your child
English Mrs Matalu	This term we will be focusing on the book 'The Last Zookeeper' by Aaron Becker. This book tells the story of a robot who rescues the animals from an abandoned zoo after a huge flood. The book has no words, but beautiful illustrations, which we will be exploring together, building on our descriptive language as we describe what is happening in our own words. We will make predictions about what will happen next and think about how the characters are feeling. We will also share our own thoughts and opinions on the story. We will develop our writing by creating character profiles, captions for the pictures and finally produce our own rescue-themed story based on the book. We will also continue to teach phonics, which pupils will learn in ability-based groups to ensure they are learning at the appropriate level for them, as well as progressing reading through regular practise with their reading books. Spellings will also start being sent home soon for pupils to practise.	Read with your child, both the books that they bring home, but also whatever they are interested in reading. Please complete their reading record when you have read with your child at home. Please help your child to practise their spellings at home. We will send new spellings home each Friday. We will send English homework home with your child each week. This will depend on their ability and could link with their IEP targets, or with learning we are doing in class. Please support them with this. Thank you. We would also love you to send some photos on Weduc to show what your child has been up to each weekend so we can practise our speaking and listening skills on a Monday by sharing our weekend news. Thank you!	Setting Character Prediction Feelings Rescue

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Maths Mrs Matalu	This term we are beginning by looking at number and the number system and counting and comparing, followed by addition and subtraction. This involves learning to read and write numbers using numerals and words, as well as learning about place value in numbers with more than one digit. We will also learn to put numbers in order of their values and to count forwards and backwards in steps. We will learn some different methods of addition and subtraction, using practical and visual resources, and ways that we can record our answers. We will use this knowledge to solve addition and subtraction problems. After half term we will be investigating properties of shape, and visualising and constructing shapes. This will involve learning the names of 2d and 3d shapes and being able to describe their properties. We will also look at symmetry and create our own three-dimensional shapes using different materials.	Practise counting with your child, forwards and backwards. Once they have got the hang of this, try counting in twos, tens or fives. Use every day experiences as opportunities to talk about addition and subtraction, and encourage your child to work out the answers. For example, We have two friends coming for dinner, plus the three people in our family. How many plates will we need altogether? Go on a shape hunt when you are out for a walk. What different shapes can you find? Have a go at making symmetrical patterns using a website like this: Make a symmetrical pattern online (simple, 2, 4)	Place value Digit More Less Equals Shape 2d 3d Symmetry

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Science Mrs Matalu	This term our topic is cells, organs and systems. Pupils will be learning to identify things that are living, once living or never alive using the seven life processes to help us. We will learn about cells and microscopes, and use microscopes to look at real cells. We will learn about the different organs of the body and what their jobs are and learn that skeletons and muscles work together to help us move. Finally, we will learn about what happens to our food when we eat, and the journey it takes through the digestive system. After half term, our topic will be energy. In this topic we will learn about different types of energy, and how they can be changed from one form to another. We will learn about how water can be changed into ice or steam at different temperatures. We will learn different ways to stop heat escaping from our houses over the winter, to keep us warm and save energy. We will also be learning about renewable and non-renewable energy resources and the advantages and disadvantages of these.	When you are out and about, ask your child to point out things that are living and non-living around them. See if they can tell you how they know. Play games to learn the parts of the body – both those we can see, and our internal organs. Talk about the food your child is eating – can they tell you what happens to it as it is digested? Talk about the temperature and how we keep things warm as the weather gets colder. Include how we keep ourselves warm when we go out, how we keep our houses warm too. Use a thermometer to check the temperature inside and outside each day and talk discuss how it changes over the weeks as we get closer to Christmas.	Living Non-living Cells Microscopes Organs Ice Water Steam Renewable Non-renewable
Art Mrs Matalu & Miss Price	During terms 1 and 2, pupils will focus on the work of Vincent Van Gogh. They will experiment with a variety of mediums, including pencil, ink, collage, and thick acrylic paint. Towards the end of this project, pupils will complete a mixed media collage section of <i>Starry Night</i>, and everyone's work will be incorporated into a large-scale collaborative collage of the painting.	If possible, please look at these websites with your child for lots of information and fun activities about Van Gogh. Tate Kids Who is Vincent van Gogh? Tate Kids Where is The Starry Night? - Van Gogh Museum	Van Gogh Starry Night Collage Brush strokes Lines Colour

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DT Mrs Matalu	This term we will be focusing on textiles and pupils will be designing and making their own 'Misfit doll' based on the Ugly Dolls film. They will explore different materials, evaluate examples of Misfit dolls that have been made previously and create a mood board of their ideas. Pupils will then try out different techniques, such as applique, fabric pens, adding buttons, and different types of stitches, before creating a final design. After half-term they will put their learning into practise to make their own Misfit doll to take home. They will then evaluate their work by saying what they like about it and what could be improved.	Look together at any cuddly toys you have at home. Talk about how they have been made? Are their decorations, has sewing been used? If you are able, it would be great if you could do some simple sewing with your child at home. Maybe they could put a few stitches on a piece of fabric to make a bookmark.	Fabric Design Sewing Stitches Evaluate

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PE Mr Altman & Mr Stinton	In term 1, the pupils will focus on developing their multiskills. They will have the chance to work on their throwing, catching, hitting and striking skills and apply these into game scenarios. This is to help prepare them for a wide range of sports and activities that we will do at Alderman Knight. Next term we are focusing on health-related fitness and wellbeing. We will look towards improving our fitness through circuit training activities. We will learn many different exercises we can complete. These include free-weight exercises, bodyweight exercises and cardio related exercises. We will complete fitness tests in the first few lessons so we can discover how their fitness has improved at the end of the term. Throughout the term, we will be discussing ways of improving our wellbeing which can be completed alongside exercise. Discussions around healthy eating, drinking the daily minimum amount of water, how much sleep we require at different ages and how it impacts us the next day. This all with the aim to develop pupils understanding around how lead a healthy, active, lifestyle.	Term 1 support: Practice throwing and catching with your child, allow the ball to bounce to begin and then try to increase the distance to make the activity harder. To help your child you can: Complete YouTube videos based around exercise tutorials, such as the Joe Wicks morning workout series or the Cosmic Kids Yoga series. Watch YouTube Videos on different non-equipment exercises such as the following: 1. Squat 2. Press-Ups 3. Sit- Ups	Exercise Fitness Co-ordination Balance Movement Cardio Muscles Healthy Unhealthy

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History Mrs Petrie	This term, pupils will be developing their historical skills to help them think and work like real historians. We will focus on chronology, learning how we order time and the difference between AD and BC. Pupils will then explore the Stone Age, looking closely at the three main periods – the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic – and comparing how life changed over time. A key part of our study will be the Neolithic Revolution, where we will analyse both the short-term and long-term effects of humans moving from hunting and gathering to farming and settlement.	Talk about timelines – for example, place family events or famous historical events in order. Encourage use of key words at home and ask pupils to explain what they mean. Watch age-appropriate documentaries or visit websites about the Stone Age together. Visit local museums or historical sites if possible, to bring the past to life.	Chronology Anachronism Significant Palaeolithic Mesolithic Neolithic
Geography Mrs Mitchell-Dyer	This term, we will explore how to think like a geographer. We'll investigate key aspects of human and physical geography, starting with our local surroundings and gradually expanding to the wider world. We'll also develop essential geographical skills by learning how to read maps. Additionally, we will explore the continents, identify major countries, and become familiar with the world's oceans.	Please engage in conversations with your child should you see any news-worthy stories on weather, climate, volcanoes, earthquakes or any topics related to continents. BBC Bitesize is very useful for Geography content.	Continents Countries Oceans Map Directions

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Food Studies Ms Tyler	This term, pupils will be Mastering the Basics of cooking, focusing on kitchen safety, hygiene, and essential preparation skills. They'll develop confidence in using knives correctly, learning techniques such as the bridge hold and claw grip, while safely peeling and chopping a range of ingredients. Pupils will explore the importance of balanced meals through the Eatwell Guide, understanding portion sizes, food groups, and how to make healthy choices in everyday meals. As we move into Autumn 2, the focus shifts to Seasonal Christmas Baking. Pupils will apply their knowledge of baking techniques like mixing, rolling, and shaping, while also considering how sugar, fat, and spices influence flavour and texture. We'll explore how food can reflect tradition and celebration, encouraging creativity in presentation and precision in baking. From sweet treats to savoury bakes, pupils will practise oven safety and portioning while developing an awareness of healthier ingredient swaps. Across the term, pupils will complete the following practical's: fruit salad, sandwich making, mozzarella & tomato bagel pizzas, pepperoni pizza pockets, cinnamon apple & cranberry flapjacks, gingerbread people, turkey & cranberry flatbread pizzas, vanilla crinkle cookies, Christmas sprinkle cookie bars, and roast potatoes. Each recipe offers a valuable opportunity to refine key skills while building an appreciation for seasonal ingredients and festive cooking.	Any cooking or baking experiences at home will be beneficial. Recipe sheets will be sent home, so the recipes made at school can be repeated. Please encourage pupils to get involved in food preparation and discussions around food, food groups and balanced diets.	Baking Bridge hold Chopping Claw grip Decorating Eatwell Guide Even bake Food hygiene Food safety Knife safety

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Computing Mr Robinson & Mr Naylor	Our computing work will focus on learning how to use the computer equipment effectively and safely. Pupils will also prepare their own document entitled 'All About Me' to briefly describe their hobbies and interests and use Microsoft packages to complete a presentation. There will also be a focus on computing skills, literacy and the safe use of the internet including internet safety.	If pupils have access, it would be useful if they can practice using Microsoft packages like Word and PowerPoint. Recommended tasks could be to use Word to complete some lists (perhaps a shopping list).	Microsoft Word PowerPoint Excel Online Safety Internet Google
Music Mrs Lea	This term in Music we will be playing a variety of drums and learning about the different elements that go into making a piece of music. Pupils will learn about different cultures and their music as well as learning to play a variety of rhythmic pieces. They will then have the opportunity to build these skills into a final piece.	Please encourage your child to listen to a wide variety of music at home and discuss their preferences	Rhythm Texture Pulse Djembe Call and response

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PSD Mrs Matalu	This term our topic is Healthy Lifestyles. We have started the term by looking at the Five Ways to Wellbeing, doing different activities for each of the five ways: connect, be active, keep learning, take notice and give. We will then move onto look at different ways that people can live a healthy lifestyle, including dental health, physical activity and a healthy diet. We will also look at mental health and ways we can help ourselves if we are feeling worried. After half-term, our topic will be self-awareness. We will focus on identifying what we are good at and what things we enjoy as well as things that make us special and unique. We will learn about how to respect others and treat everyone fairly and about what we can do if people are being unkind to us. We will also mark UK Parliament Week (24th–30th November), when we will learn more about democracy, who our local MP is, and how they can help us.	Start some new healthy routines with your child at home. This could be a swapping a snack for something healthier, taking the dog for a walk together, or having a dance party. Think together of someone who has been kind to them and support them to make a thank you card for that person. Point out to your child things that they enjoy, are good at, or have improved at recently, to help them build their awareness of their skills. If possible, help them write a letter to your local MP about a local issue that is important to your family.	Wellbeing Exercise Diet Teeth Relaxation Skill Unique Respect Kind / Unkind Democracy

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R&W Miss Jackson	During the Autumn term, we will learn why it is important to talk about religion and worldviews in a kind and respectful way. We will start by unpicking what it is to believe something, and what is a fact. We will then look at Christianity and start looking at how Christian beliefs affect the way people live. We will learn why Christians call Jesus a King and read some of Jesus' parables (stories) to see what lessons they teach about how to live. We will also look at Bible stories about the Kingdom of God and how Christians try to follow Jesus' advice. We will also think about other religions and worldviews in Britain and how they link to British values, like respect and fairness.	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 the main 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 lovely, age-appropriate videos, like this one, on Christianity Facts about Christianity – KS3 Religious Studies – BBC Bitesize - BBC Bitesize .	Key words to learn: Belief Fact Jesus King Respect
Drama Miss Price	During terms 1 and 2, pupils will firstly be taking part in a range of drama games and activities designed for them to learn and develop key drama skills. Once pupils are familiar with some of the practical elements in drama, they will be learning about puppets and puppetry, while continuing to learn and develop their key drama skills. Pupils will explore a range of different types of puppets and puppetry styles and act out short stories and poems using various types of puppets such as hand puppets, string puppets, shadow puppets, finger puppets and stick puppets.	Encourage pupils to watch clips of different puppet TV programmes (for example, "The Muppets," "Sesame Street" and "Sooty") and say what they liked about the different puppet characters.	Hand puppets Shadow puppets Finger puppets Stick puppets String puppets Miming Acting Stage

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Outdoor Learning Mrs Barlow	This term, pupils will explore the life cycles of common garden insects, creating illustrated diagrams with notes to show their understanding. They will also investigate why birds may need extra support during the colder months. As part of this, pupils will research bird diets and design their own bird feeders, before deciding on the most suitable locations to place them. Alongside this, we will discuss how connecting with nature can support our own wellbeing. For example, watching birds from a window can bring a sense of calm, happiness, and closeness to the natural world. Year 7 pupils will also make use of George's Farm, the Forest School, and the Sensory Garden during their sessions. They will practise using specific tools to help care for these areas, while learning the importance of safe and responsible practice.	To extend learning at home, there are a number of free apps and activities that encourage children to engage with nature. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), one of the organisations we work with to share data, offers excellent resources: www.rspb.org.uk. You can also support your child by encouraging them to spend a few minutes each day observing nature—whether looking out of a window, exploring a local park, or investigating what's hiding beneath leaves and stones. Taking photos with a phone app such as Google Lens or the iPhone equivalent can make this an interactive and exciting experience.	Habitat Feather Bird feeder Garden Plant Larva Insect Nocturnal Hibernation Sustainable