

Autumn Term Overview

Tutor Group: 8P



Subject and Teacher	Subject Overview	How you can help at home	Subject specific key words to practise with your child
English Mrs Fisher	This term, Mrs Fisher's class will be studying 'Talking to Alaska' by Anna Woltz. We will be exploring relationships and the challenges linked to overcoming adversity. Pupils will be using their retrieval and inference skills to find key information from the text. We will also be exploring poetry and examining the language, images and techniques used within them. Pupils will be using their writing skills to produce their own poems and creative writing based on the texts and ideas we are studying.	Regularly reading a variety of texts with your child, including both fiction and non-fiction, will help them to develop their vocabulary and understanding, as well as provide them with ideas to use in their own writing.	Disability Epilepsy Dual narrative Themes Metaphor Identity
English Miss Barrow	This term Miss Barrow's class will be studying 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo. We will be learning about World War One and what was happening at the time the book was set using a variety of sources. We will be researching what happened during the war and what conditions were like for the soldiers involved. Pupils will be using their retrieval and inference skills to find key information from the text. We will be exploring war poetry and examining the language, images and techniques used within them. Pupils will also be using their writing skills to produce their own poems and creative writing based on the texts and ideas we are studying.	Please help the pupils to learn more about the context of their learning by watching relevant 'Horrible Histories' episodes through YouTube or BBC iPlayer. Further research on World War One can be explored using websites such as BBC Bitesize to find out about the causes of WW1: Causes of World War One - World War One - KS3 History - homework help for year 7, 8 and 9. - BBC Bitesize and what life was like on the front line for soldiers What was life like on the front line in World War One? - World War One - KS3 History - homework help for year 7, 8 and 9. - BBC Bitesize Regularly reading a variety of texts, including both fiction and non-fiction, with your child will help them to develop their vocabulary and understanding as well as provide them with ideas to use in their own writing.	Sacrifice Cowardice Emotive language Themes Metaphor Symbolism

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Maths Mr Robinson	This term, pupils will be working on numbers and the number system. They will review place value (looking at thousands, hundreds, tens), identifying the value of each digit in numbers up to four digits, and practise reading and writing numbers in words. We will also use numbers lines to see how we can break large numbers down into equal chunks, which can help with division. Later in the term we will be looking at geometry where pupils will focus on visualising and constructing 2D and 3D shapes. They will learn to name shapes and describe their properties and learn words such as 'symmetry' and 'parallel'. We will also dedicate one lesson a week to times table practice throughout the term.	Students could practise reading and writing numbers at home, for example by spotting large numbers on signs, packaging, or on the TV. Ask them to explain place value using everyday numbers like prices or dates. Talk about the shapes you see in real life, such as different road signs, and ask them to describe the properties of these shapes.	Place value Thousands / Hundreds / Tens / Units 2D shape / 3D shape Symmetry Perpendicular Parallel Times tables

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Science Mr Bentley	This term our topic is Forces, Speed and Motion. Pupils are learning about contact and non-contact forces, including gravity, friction, and electrostatic forces. They are carrying out a range of experiments, such as measuring the breaking force of sweets in Newtons and using data loggers to record speed. Pupils will also be learning about the movement of the planets in the solar system, relative to the sun, and explain night and day. Pupils carry out practical experiments and learn about levers and pulleys and gears. Next term our topic will be acids, alkalis and rates of reaction. Pupils will learn about reversible and irreversible reactions, and physical and chemical changes. We will be learning how to write word equations for chemical reactions and describe what happens in exothermic and endothermic reactions. They will also learn how to measure the rate of reaction.	Term 1 – Use BBC Bitesize resources about Forces for the first half-term: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zs3896f#zb92qfr Term 2 - Please use these BBC Bitesize resources about Acids and Alkalis: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zn6hvcw	Contact force Non-contact force Friction Relative motion Speed Acid Alkali PH Neutralise Catalyst
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 Influence
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	Year 8 will start the year by learning about online safety by creating their own guides on staying safe online. They will do this using the 'SMART' internet rules. They will learn about how computers work by considering input, output, and storage devices, and learn how home networks work. They will practise important spreadsheet skills with formulas, and design magazine covers using graphics software. Year 8 can look forward to physical computing and programming with Microbits towards the end of term!	Children could be asked how they can use the tips they have learnt at school to stay safe online while at home. Year 8 will learn about the 'SMART' rules. They could also be shown their network devices at home so they can see how technology works everywhere!	Input Output Storage Network Device Online safety

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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
PSD Mrs Petrie	This term, pupils will focus on making healthy lifestyle choices, developing citizenship, and building self-awareness. In the first half-term, they will revisit the 5 Ways to Wellbeing, exploring how to look after their physical and mental health through connecting with others, being active, noticing the world, learning new skills, and giving to others. Lessons will also cover the influences on diet and exercise, maintaining health, and the risks linked to drugs, alcohol, and other substances, alongside strategies for making positive choices. In the second half-term, pupils will deepen their understanding of Parliament, with opportunities to debate and discuss issues that matter to them. They will also focus on self-awareness, building confidence, recognising strengths, managing emotions, and developing resilience. Across the term, pupils will be encouraged to reflect on their wellbeing, their role as citizens, and the importance of informed, positive decision-making.	Talk to your child about healthy lifestyle habits, encourage open discussions about pressures they may face, and explore current events together to strengthen their understanding of democracy.	Wellbeing Resilience Influence Pressure Strategies Healthy Choices

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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 beliefs 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

Commented [MJ1]: @Mr O Antonious apologies, I missed this one...

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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, setting the scene, 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 (audience participation 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 Characterisation Movement Pantomime
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