

Spring Term Overview

Tutor Group: 8B

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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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</p>	<p>This term we move onto our first Biology topic of the year - infection and disease. Pupils will learn about the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way our bodies function. They will learn about how living things are classified into groups, such as bacteria, viruses and fungi based on their common observable characteristics. They will learn about what these different pathogens do to make us ill. Pupils will learn what vaccines are, and what they do to our bodies when they are injected. Pupils will learn about how antibiotics were discovered and why it takes a long time to develop new medications.</p> <p>Next term our topic will also be a Biology topic - Competition, Causes of Change and Classification. Pupils will learn how environmental factors, including pollution, can affect a species. They will learn how living things are classified into broad groups based on common observable characteristics, similarities and differences, including microorganisms, animals and plants. They will have a go at classifying different animals and plants and explain their reasoning based on specific characteristics. Pupils will also learn how animals and plants adapt to suit their environment.</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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<p>Art Mrs Berry</p>	<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 broad selection of the work by the Artists they will be studying this term.</p> <p>Peter Clark Portland Gallery</p> <p>Rosalind Monks</p> <p>Rosalind Monks — Capsules</p>	<p>Peter Clark Rosalind Monks Intricate Embellish Blend Symmetry</p>
<p>DT Miss Jackson</p>	<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>	<p>Construction Movement Motion Mechanisms Cam and follower</p>

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<p>PE Mr Altman, Mr Smith and Mr Stinton</p>	<p>This term, pupils will focus on trampolining and football, developing a range of skills to build their confidence, control, and teamwork. In trampolining, pupils will learn fundamental techniques such as basic bouncing, pike, straddle, tuck, twists, and seat drops. As they progress, some pupils may be introduced to more advanced skills like front drops and back drops, combining movements into simple routines while emphasising safety and correct technique.</p> <p>In football, pupils will develop essential skills including shooting, dribbling, tackling, and passing, with the aim of applying these techniques in game-style scenarios. These activities will encourage pupils to enhance their physical abilities while also fostering teamwork, communication, and strategic thinking.</p>	<p>To support your child we recommend you watch the following videos to prepare them for some of the moves they may perform in the lesson</p> <p>PIKE JUMP TRAMPOLINE CENTRAL - YouTube</p> <p>HALF TWIST JUMP - TRAMPOLINE CENTRAL</p> <p>TUCK JUMP DEMO - TRAMPOLINE CENTRAL</p> <p>Trampoline Central - Straddle Jump Demo</p> <p>Trampoline Central - Seat Landing Demo</p>	<p><u>Trampolining</u></p> <p>Focus</p> <p>Landing</p> <p>Perform</p> <p>Traveling</p> <p>Body Tension</p> <p><u>Football</u></p> <p>Dribble</p> <p>Ball control</p> <p>Jockey</p> <p>Positioning</p>
<p>History Mrs Dyer</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>There are great local History sites in this area, which would be good for your child to visit. You can also watch Horrible History articles on BBC iPlayer.</p>	<p>Tudor</p> <p>Henry VIII</p> <p>Elizabeth I</p> <p>Reformation</p> <p>Exploration</p> <p>Influence</p>

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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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Food Studies Mrs Goss	<p>In the Spring term of year 8, pupils will be introduced to a range of different preparation skills from using an electric whisk to speed up processes to making their own shortcrust pastry. Pupils will learn new cooking skills such as making a roux and béchamel sauce on the hob for a macaroni cheese to cooking with raw bacon. The practical lessons of the first half term (Italy) will include: chorizo & red pepper pasta, macaroni cheese, bacon & pea risotto and stuffed crust pizza. The second half term (home baking) will include: jam tarts, blueberry & Greek yoghurt muffins, a ham & Cheese scone round, a lemon & elderflower cake and Mini Egg cookie bars. Each topic is underpinned with the pupil's future in the forefront of our minds, these two half terms have a focus on energy balance and how food and exercise interlink. Pupils look at what foods are required to aid physical activity and the importance of hydration. The food safety and hygiene element are paramount, and pupils will begin their first recipe with meat. Although they won't be handling it until next term, they begin looking at how meat looks different when raw and cooked. Pupils are shown how to wash and clean electric whisks after using them for baking. The topic also includes understanding of how all the dishes made contribute towards a healthy and balanced diet, as well as knowledge around the source and seasonality of the broad range of ingredients from Italy.</p>	<p>Activities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn food safety and hygiene practices by cooking and cleaning together. Investigate the differences between raw and cooked meat. Make jam tarts together at home using pre-made shortcrust pastry. Research the ingredients used in Italian cooking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calories Carbohydrates Eatwell Guide Energy balance Hydration Performance Physical activity Protein Reduction Starchy Sugary Weight

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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 Miss Barrow</p>	<p>This term pupils will be focusing on 'The World We Live In'. We will be looking at careers and exploring a variety of job roles that interest us. We will also be looking at salaries and developing budgeting skills to help manage money. We will also be exploring how we impact the world and what we can do to support the Earth and the local area around us. We will continue our tutor group focus of supporting The Dog's Trust and learning more about the work they do.</p>	<p>Talk about different career options and jobs that are available in the local area that may link to their interests. Talk about how you budget for household expenses and prioritise essentials.</p>	<p>Career Salary Wage Budget Environment Recycling</p>
<p>R&W Mrs Petrie</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>

