

Autumn Term Overview

Tutor Group: 8J

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, <i>Stitch Head</i> . 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. <i>Stitch Head</i> 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
Maths Miss Barrow	This term, 8J will begin with a focus on <i>Number and the Number System</i> . Pupils will work at their own level to develop their understanding of place value, practise partitioning numbers into tens and ones, write numbers in words, and use resources to support their learning. Next, we will move on to <i>Counting and Comparing</i> , where pupils will estimate, order, and compare numbers, while also developing their fluency in skip-counting starting with counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Following this, we will explore <i>Addition and Subtraction</i> , reinforcing key strategies for mental and written calculations using two and three digit numbers. To round off the term, our focus will shift to <i>Geometry</i> , 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. Encourage pupils to identify areas of their day where they use Maths including telling the time and using money. Please support them with their weekly Maths homework. Topmarks has some engaging maths games Topmarks: teaching resources, interactive resources, worksheets, homework, exam and revision help Maths Playground is another good website for Maths games Math Playground – The Original Math Games Site for Kids	Place value Digits Numerals Ones, tens, hundreds, thousands Compare Add/subtract Order Partition

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Science Miss Watson	This term, we will be learning all about forces, speed and how they work. We will begin to understand that unsupported objects fall towards the earth due to gravity and what magnetic force is. We will complete some experiments with levers, pulleys and gears to help us understand how these can increase the effect of a small force.	At home, encourage pupils to think about the objects they use every day and what force they use to make it work (for example a twist force is used to open a water bottle with a screw on lid).	Push Pull Twist Gravity Magnet
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 Mrs Rudringer	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
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

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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
Food Studies Mrs Goss	This term, pupils will explore the bold and flavourful cuisine of Spain, learning how to safely handle meat, sauté vegetables, shape and seal pastries, and add sensible amounts of herbs and spices into their cooking for subtle flavour. Pupils will build confidence working with different types of rice and explore Spanish and Portuguese influences through dishes like empanadas, Spanish meatballs, and paella. In Autumn 2, pupils transition into Seasonal Christmas Baking. Pupils will explore shaping and portioning doughs, use festive spices and create quick no-bake treats for the family to share. Pupils become familiar again with the food room, embedding hygiene and safety rules as they cook throughout the term, supporting their futures and preparation for adulthood.	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

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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
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

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PSD Miss Jackson	PSD is delivered annually in a cycle of topics to build on their learning. During the autumn term, pupils will focus on learning how to make healthy lifestyle choices and begin to develop their understanding of citizenship and self-awareness. In Autumn 1, pupils will revisit the 5 Ways to Wellbeing in more detail, thinking about how to look after their physical and mental health through connecting with others, being active, noticing the world around them, learning new skills and giving to others. They will also learn about the influences on diet and exercise, how to maintain physical health, and the risks and consequences linked to drugs, alcohol and other substances. Pupils will consider the pressures that young people may face around these issues and practise strategies for making positive choices. In Autumn 2, we will revisit their learning about Parliament, adding more knowledge to last year. They will have the chance to debate and discuss issues that matter to them. Following this, lessons will focus on self-awareness, including building confidence, recognising personal strengths, managing emotions, and developing resilience. Throughout both terms, pupils will be encouraged to reflect on their own wellbeing, their role as responsible citizens, and the importance of making informed, positive choices for their futures.	You can help your child at home by talking to them about healthy lifestyle habits, encouraging open discussions about pressures they may face, and exploring current events together to build their awareness of democracy.	Key words: 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 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 Diwali Karma Guru Nanak Gurdwara

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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 character work, 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 (booming/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 Story line Miming Slapstick comedy Facial expressions Characters 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