



Aston Fields Middle School

Year 8 Curriculum Newsletter - Spring Term

Striving For Excellence: Learning For Life



Dear Parents/Carers,

Over these two pages, you will be able to read about what your child will be learning over the course of this term.

Should you wish to find out more, please visit our website:

www.astonfields.worcs.sch.uk

Maths

Ratio and Proportion:

Simplifying, dividing by and problem solving.



Shape: Transformations including reflection, rotation, translation and enlargement (extension: centres of enlargement and negative and fractional scale factors) including similar shapes and congruent shapes.

Number: Fractions, decimals and percentages, written calculations and working with negative numbers including problem solving (extension: simple and compound interest).

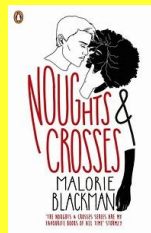
Algebra: Linear equations, solving one step, two step and unknowns on both sides, equations including fractions and negative numbers (extension: expanding quadratic equations).

Sequences: Finding missing terms, rules including term to term and introduction to nth term, geometric and special sequences such as triangle numbers and Fibonacci (extension: nth term for quadratic sequences).

Core Subjects

English

The pupils in Year 8 will be reading **Noughts and Crosses** by Malorie Blackman



Reading skills:

Whilst reading *Noughts and Crosses*, pupils will be asked to make both predictions and inferences using evidence from the text to support and justify their views. They will carefully analyse language and discuss how it contributes to the meaning of the novel.

Additionally, they will be asked to make comparisons about the main characters and their lives. Pupils will also experience reading playscripts.

Writing skills:

Using the novel, pupils will write in a range of different genres, including:

A recount - A diary entry from the main character's perspective
Character analysis - looking in depth to one character's life and experience
TV news report - focusing on a key event within the novel.

Grammar & Punctuation:

Pupils will also recall technical SPaG knowledge and spelling strategies taught throughout KS2 and apply these to their own writing.

Personal Development

Staying Safe Online (online relationships and assessing online content and contact)

Character Education focus:

'Character and Community'- Perseverance, community spirit, resilience, honesty, grit and integrity.

Science

The Earth:

In this topic pupils will describe the different layers of the Earth's structure; explain how igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks form, giving their properties; use the rock cycle to explain how the material in rocks is recycled; explain why the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere did not change for many years; explore the carbon cycle, identifying carbon stores; explain why global warming happens, giving the impacts of global warming.



Metals and Acids:

In this topic, pupils will compare the reactions of different metals with water, writing equations to represent these reactions.; use the reactivity series to predict reactions; predict if a given pair of substances will undergo displacement.; explain why the properties of ceramics make them suitable for their uses; interpret data on polymers to decide on the best polymer for a given purpose, justifying the choice; explain why composite properties make them suitable for their uses.

Separation:

In this topic, pupils will describe particle arrangements in mixtures; select appropriate separation techniques for different mixtures; describe solutions using keywords: solute, solvent, solution, solubility, saturated; plan an investigation to compare solubility with temperature, considering the variables; explain how filtration, evaporation, distillation and chromatography can be used to separate mixtures.



Foundation Subjects

Geography

Topic - Completion of 'How Asia is transforming' and start the new topic 'River basins'

Pupils will look at the continent of Asia and explore the many changes that are taking place economically and culturally. We also explore the diversity in the physical geography of the continent. We will then begin to look at the topic of rivers and how they shape and impact our landscape.

Skills to be developed:

Map skills and locational knowledge, using data and evidence to explain changes and explanation of physical processes using labelled diagrams.



Physical Education

This term, the Physical Education curriculum focuses on advanced skills (physical, psychological, social and technical) in various sports and learning activities. Pupils engage in deeper thinking into what happens physiologically to our bodies during exercise in health and fitness while further refining individual technical skills of abilities in archery and gymnastics. The emphasis is on mastering performance analysis techniques, showing resilience during challenge.



Music

Pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of Blues music including traditions and cultures of Africa and America. Pupils will learn the technical skills to perform a blues melody, the blues scale, the 3 chords - C, F and G, and the walking bass pattern to the 12 bar Blues accurately and fluently. Pupils will explore ways to improvise and consider how the components can be interpreted and experimented with.



History

Topic: The Slave Trade

Pupils will learn about Harriet Tubman, abolition of slavery and its impact on the world today.

Topic: American Civil Rights Movement

Towards the end of the term, pupils will learn about the American Civil Rights Movement. This will include segregation in the 1950-60s and the role of key individuals and groups to gain greater rights (Martin Luther King JR, Rosa Parks, Oliver Brown)

Skills to be developed:

Chronology skills, comparison of sources of evidence from the past, forming and explaining historical judgements.



Design & Technology

Pupils will continue to complete a carousel of DT based projects including Food Technology, Textiles, Product Design and Systems and Control. Each project will last for 8 weeks and has been developed to introduce pupils to new materials and processes as well as developing their designing, making and evaluation skills.



Computing

Topic: Python

Pupils will explore what Python is and how it is used in the wider world around us. They will start with simple programs involving input and output, and gradually move on to arithmetic operations, randomness, selection, and iteration. During this unit, they will learn the basics of Python programming and be able to correct common errors in a code.

Skills to be developed:

- To be able to make simple programs using Python code.
- To be able to identify errors in my code and correct them.

Religious Studies

The Buddha: how and why do his experiences and teachings have meaning for people today?

How and why did Siddhartha Gautama become 'The Buddha'? Key events in the life of the Buddha How and why do Buddhist people try to follow the Four Noble Truths? Suffering, desire and the Middle Way.

How and why do Buddhist people use the symbols of the Wheel of Life to teach the Dharma?

What are the causes of happiness here and now, according to the Buddha?

Key Skills: Making sense of beliefs, understanding the impact and making connections.



Art & Design

Topic: Amazing Architecture

Pupils will create a collagraph printed image. They will look at columns from ancient Greek architecture before studying more local features and modern artists. Key skills to be developed include: **Researching** local historical and modern architecture.

Observing and drawing key features of a range of different buildings using a range of different mediums.

Developing the level of detail and accuracy within their work.

Printmaking -create an accurate collagraph print of an architectural feature.



Modern Foreign Languages

This term, Year 8 will be completing the topic of Festivals and Celebrations and start a new topic of Free Time.

- Talk about celebrities and TV programmes.
- Talk about digital technology.
- Arrange to go to the cinema and buy tickets.
- Talk about leisure activities.
- Spot synonyms and perfect tense verbs.

