



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

This term, lessons will focus on problem solving and deepening understanding within each of the following topics.



Probability – probability notation.

Shape – transformations including reflection, rotation, translation and enlargement.

Extending shape – volume and surface area problems, Pythagoras' Theorem. Constructions – triangles, bisectors, scale drawing, loci, bearings.

Shape – 3D shapes, isometric drawing, plans, elevations, nets, surface area and volume of cuboids and other polygons.

Extending algebra knowledge – more complex simplification including brackets, indices and fractions, double brackets and factorisation.

Statistics – a range of data charts and tables, averages including from tables, surveys, data and different charts and graphs.

Core Subjects

English

The pupils in Year 8 will be continuing to read **Noughts and Crosses** before moving onto William Shakespeare.



Reading skills:

Whilst reading Noughts and Crosses, pupils will be asked to make both predictions and inferences using evidence from the text to justify their views. They will analyse language and discuss how it contributes to the meaning of the novel. Additionally, they will be asked to make comparisons about the characters and their lives.

Writing skills:

Using the novel, pupils will write in a range of different genres including diary entries, character analysis, witness statements and a TV News report.

Grammar & Punctuation:

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

Shakespeare:

During the term, pupils will study William Shakespeare and look at the reason why so many people are inspired by his writing. They will explore questions such as 'Was Shakespeare an advocate for women's rights?'

Pupils will study extracts from the play 'Macbeth', exploring the author's craft: language, structure and contextual influences, in addition to character and plot. Pupils will build on their writing skills by writing effectively, in order to inform the reader.

Science

During these topics, pupils will learn how to:

ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM

- Describe how charged objects interact and what is meant by an electric field.
- Explain what is meant by current.
- Set up a circuit using an ammeter to measure current.
- State how to make an electromagnet and how to change its strength.

ECOSYSTEMS

- Describe the process of photosynthesis and understand the word equation.
- Explain the role of minerals for healthy plant growth.
- State the word equations for aerobic and anaerobic respiration.

ADAPTATION

- State some resources that plants and animals compete for.
- Explain how variation in species can occur giving the differences between environmental and inherited variation.
- Describe how characteristics are inherited and how scientists have worked over time to discover the structure of DNA.



Personal Development and Character Education

Pupils look at transition and moving on. They will consider positive relationships and the importance in aspiring to be a person of character. They will think about role models and their hopes and aspirations for the next academic year and reflect on their character development, setting new goals and targets.

Foundation Subjects

Geography

Topic - River basins:

Pupils will explore how river systems work, extending their understanding of their use and investigating the impact of flooding.

Topic - What is an economy?

Pupils will study economic activities and what they are like at different scales. The following skills will be developed:

- Using data and evidence to explain changes.
- Explanation of physical processes using labelled diagrams.
- Developing extended written explanations.

Physical Education

The Summer Term promises to inspire pupils to embrace a lifelong commitment to physical activity through four different learning activities that cater to diverse interests and abilities.

The term begins with a focus on fundamental movement skills in activities such as athletics (working to maximise a long jump). In striking and fielding based activities like tennis and rounders, pupils will act on advice from their peers to improve their technique.



Music

Pupils will be looking at how music in the media began by learning about silent films, including Charlie Chaplin and Wagner, who were 2 great inspirations for film music. Pupils will recap, recall and deepen their knowledge of chords and phrasing that they learnt in Years 5, 6 and 7, paying particular attention to accuracy and fluency when performing and composing popular Leitmotifs. They will then perform with increasing accuracy, popular Leitmotifs from well-known films.



History

Topic - American Civil Rights

During the Summer term, pupils will turn their attention to American History. They will learn about the reasons why the American Civil Rights Movement emerged, key groups and individuals including Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. They will also have the opportunity to further develop their source, interpretation and extended writing in preparation for high school.



Design & Technology

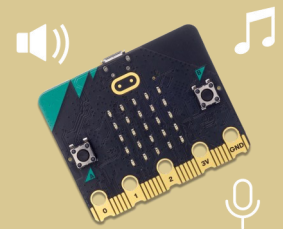
Pupils will continue to complete a carousel of DT based projects including Food Technology, Textiles, Product Design and Systems and Control. Each project will last for 8 weeks and has been developed to introduce pupils to new materials and processes as well as developing their designing, making and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



Computing

Topic - Microbits

Pupils will explore how to code external devices such as a Microbit. They will complete simple projects from the Microbit website by attaching buzzers, lights and motors to their circuit. The unit will end with the class creating a fully remote controlled buggy.



Religious Studies

How can people express spirituality through the arts?

Examining different views about spirituality and a study of a range of inspiring examples, including:

- Sikh art, music and architecture.
- Muslim calligraphy, painting and architecture.
- Christian expression of beliefs and devotion through visual art.
- Buddhist Sand Mandalas.
- Jewish Klezmer music.



Art & Design

Topic: The Figure

Pupils will continue to develop their skills and techniques through sketching, drawing and other mixed-media techniques. They will build skills in perspective and proportions through drawing the figure from primary and secondary sources. Pupils will develop 3D models in the style of Giacometti.

Knowledge and skills will develop through artist research, looking at Alberto Giacometti, Niki de Saint Phalle and later the Pop Art movement.



Modern Foreign Languages

Home Life and Healthy Lifestyles.

This term, Year 8 pupils will study the topics *Home Life* and *Healthy Lifestyles*. They will learn how to give opinions about sports, ask for and give directions and talk about health and wellbeing. Pupils will also practise using different tenses to talk about rules, problems and everyday situations.

