



Aston Fields Middle School

Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter - Autumn 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

Number – place value, negative numbers & decimals, calculations

Shape – measures including converting between time, area, perimeter

Algebra – collecting terms, substitution and formulae, single brackets

Angles and Properties of Shape – drawing and measuring angles, angles in triangles, quadrilaterals, opposite angles and angles in parallel lines

Probability – language of probability, representing probability as a fraction, decimal or percentage

Graphs – coordinates and tables of values, plotting straight line graphs

Calculations – rounding, order of operations (BIDMAS), written calculations

Personal Development and Character Education focus:

Pupils will use our 'Amazing People' resource to learn about a range of significant individuals. They will find out about their lives in detail and consider their own character strengths that could help them to achieve success.

Core Subjects

English

Novel study – **Boy Overboard** by Morris Gleitzman - the text focuses on the experiences of a family who are forced to flee Afghanistan and their journey with the goal of reaching Australia. Pupils will be asked to draw comparisons between the context of the book and their own experiences as well as making comparisons between this novel and *Once*.

They will consider structural devices, plot, narrative style, characterisation, the writer's intentions, context and themes. Pupils will build oracy skills through reading activities and classroom discussions.

An Introduction to Charles Dickens including extracts from *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Great Expectations* and the study of *A Christmas Carol* in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Throughout this term:

- Writing tasks have an increased focus on independence, resilience, and sustained descriptions that apply new vocabulary from the texts they have studied.
- New literary terminology is introduced to aid in identifying writers' methods.
- Introducing the PETER (Point, Evidence, Technique, Explain/analyse, Reader Response) paragraph structure for analytical writing.
- Pupils will extend existing skills for selecting evidence from the text, to support their opinions.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar skills from Year 6 are reinforced both through recall tasks at the beginning of lessons and throughout book work.

Science

Pupils will begin the year with an introduction to laboratory safety and planning investigations.

Particles

Pupils will learn to:

- Use the particle model of matter.
- Explore properties of substances in their three states
- Explain changes of state.
- Use the particle model to explain diffusion and gas pressure.

Atoms and Elements

Pupils will learn to:

- State what elements are.
- Compare properties of one atom to those of many.
- Write chemical names and formulae for simple compounds.

Chemical Reactions

Pupils will learn to:

- Describe what happens to atoms in chemical reactions.
- Identify reactants and products.
- Predict products of combustion reactions.
- Identify decomposition reactions.
- Explain conservation of mass.
- Describe exothermic and endothermic changes.



Foundation Subjects

Geography

Map and atlas skills

Pupils will explore the make-up of the United Kingdom and develop a range of more technical map skills.

Skills to be developed.

- Locational knowledge of the United Kingdom
- Interpretation of maps using symbols
- Reading height on a map including interpreting contour lines
- Effectively using grid references, including 6 figure grid references.



Physical Education

In the Autumn Term, Year 7 Physical Education focuses on advancing pupils' abilities across four strands. **Physically**, pupils will work on refining their strength, coordination, and endurance through the FITT principle. The **psychological** strand develops a competitive edge whilst gaining a better understanding of tactics. **Socially**, pupils will take on leadership roles and communicate in competitive situations. **Technically**, pupils will develop sophisticated skills and tactics in a range of sports.

Music

Pupils will be looking at the traditions and cultures of British Folk music and learn how Sea Shanties were used by fishermen at sea. Pupils will recap, recall and deepen their knowledge of phrasing that they learnt in KS2 and perform with increasing accuracy, more complex phrases with the introduction of major and minor triads to accompany their music. Pupils will explore and experiment different ways of performing melodic phrases and triads and show awareness and appreciation of different British cultures.

History

Topic: The Norman Conquest

Pupils will begin the year learning about a key date in British History, 1066. They will learn about contenders for the throne, the Battle of Hastings, the Bayeux Tapestry and William the Conqueror's changes.



Topic: The Black Death

Later in the term, pupils will learn about the Black Death in 1348. Lessons will cover what people believed caused the outbreak, symptoms, treatments and preventions and a comparison with other outbreaks of disease.

Design & Technology

Pupils will begin a carousel of DT based projects including Food Technology, Textiles, Product Design and a STEAM project with a focus on Electronics. 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 – E-safety

Pupils are building on their knowledge of how a computer can be compromised by security threats and a range of ways to protect their computers from harm. Pupils will explore what types of information is personal and how to limit this on social media platforms. During this unit, pupils will design and create an interactive artefact that will be used to educate other children the



Religious Studies

Topic - What difference does it mean for Christians to believe in God as Trinity?

Pupils will be able to explain what Christians mean by talking about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, using evidence from Bible texts.

They will give examples of how the Christian community respond to the idea of God as Trinity, for example, in expressing ideas about God through art and symbols in churches and express a view as to: Why do Christians worship God as Trinity, and what difference does belief in God as a Trinity make to them?

Art & Design

Introduction

Pupils will develop observational drawing skills and explore the formal elements of art through a range of artworks. They will apply this knowledge to a space and perspective project, creating a mixed-media final piece.

3D Seasonal Trees

Pupils then take this knowledge to create a 3 dimensional seasonal tree using a variety of skills, techniques and processes. Pupils will reflect upon and evaluate the work of others and their own.

Pupils will research and study artists who look at natural form and how this is represented through different mediums.

Modern Foreign Languages

This term in French, we will be covering two topics: *C'est moi* and *Mon collège*.

In our topic C'est moi !, we will be learning how to...

- Introduce myself and say my age.
- Say where I live.
- Talk about my family.
- Describe myself and others.

In our topic Mon collège !, we will be learning how to...

- Talk about my school subjects and timetable.
- Give opinions about different subjects.
- Talk about what I do during the school day.
- Explain how to be successful at school.

