



Year 8 Autumn 1

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

MATHS

To start the term, learners will develop and deepen their understanding of ratio where they will explore the different representations and notations to express this. Using this knowledge they will then look at dividing and sharing ratios, simplifying answers deepening their understanding of equivalence. Further links to fractions will be made throughout the topic as they also develop an understanding of π as the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Later in the term, learners will build on their prior knowledge of coordinates from KS2, looking at algebraic rules to form straight lines moving on to more general forms. They will explore notations for gradients and intercepts with a focus of using the equations to produce straight lines. Within this topic they will also represent, describe and interpret discrete and continuous data through graphical representation.

SCIENCE

This half term, pupils will explore how materials heat up and cool down. They will learn about the three main methods of heat transfer—conduction, convection and radiation—and develop their understanding of how insulation can reduce heat loss. Pupils will also learn how to represent convection currents using scientific diagrams. Finally, they will apply their knowledge to investigate how heat is lost from buildings and consider different ways to improve energy efficiency.

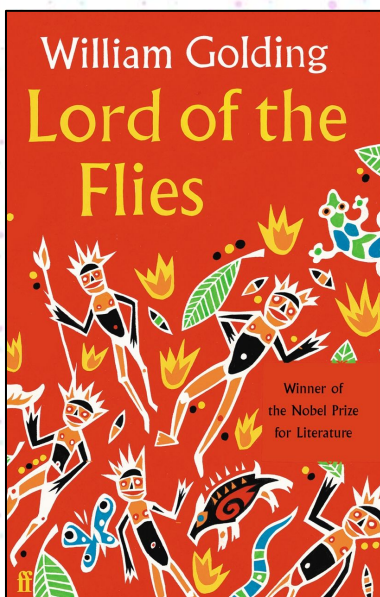
ENGLISH

Stranded: Exploring *Lord of the Flies*

This term, our Year 8 pupils will be stepping onto a deserted island as they explore William Golding's powerful dystopian novel *Lord of the Flies*. As the story unfolds, pupils will investigate what happens when a group of young people are left to survive without the rules, structures and expectations of civilisation.

Through drama, discussion and creative writing, pupils will explore the novel's compelling characters, tense atmosphere and thought-provoking themes, including leadership, friendship, power, fear and the darker sides of human nature. They will have opportunities to consider challenging questions about how people behave when society's boundaries begin to disappear and what it really means to be civilised.

Alongside their exploration of Golding's novel, pupils will continue to develop their SPaG knowledge and accuracy while encountering a range of linked texts through Guided Reading. We look forward to seeing our pupils engage thoughtfully with this challenging and unforgettable story.



MFL - SPANISH

This term, pupils will begin the topic *Las vacaciones*, focusing on holidays and travel. They will learn how to describe their usual holidays, including where they go and who they go with. Pupils will then develop their ability to talk about the activities they do on holiday, building their understanding and use of the present tense.

Through reading and listening activities, pupils will develop their ability to identify who is carrying out different actions by recognising and understanding different verb endings.



HISTORY

This term, Year 8 pupils will study the Stuarts and explore the significant events that shaped this fascinating period of British history. They will investigate events including the Gunpowder Plot, the English Civil War, the removal of the monarchy and its eventual restoration.

Pupils will also examine Worcester's important role in the Civil War and explore how London responded to the Great Plague and the impact of the Great Fire of London. As part of their studies, pupils will investigate Oliver Cromwell's leadership and consider his actions and legacy, including his controversial campaign in Ireland.

GEOGRAPHY

This term, Year 8 pupils will study India, exploring its diverse human and physical geography. They will investigate the shared history between Britain and India before considering modern-day India, including its rapid development and the factors that have contributed to it becoming the world's most populous country.

Pupils will also explore the impact of globalisation on India, considering both its benefits and challenges. They will develop their ability to analyse evidence, consider different viewpoints and construct balanced arguments—important geographical skills that will also support their future GCSE studies.



PE

During this half term, pupils will develop their existing skills in football and basketball with an increased focus on how pupils can use tactics and strategies effectively during game play.

Our cross-country house competition will also take place during this half term.



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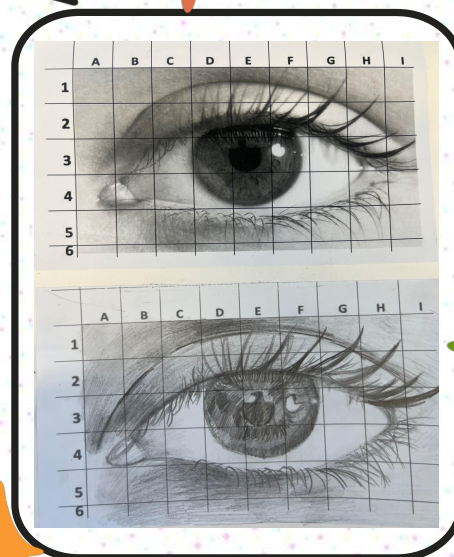
During the Autumn Term, Year 8 will begin their study with Racism & Social Justice. They will explore the causes and consequences of racism and consider how prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping can affect individuals and communities. Students will examine religious and non-religious perspectives on equality, justice, human dignity and the treatment of others, while considering the experiences of different groups within society. They will also explore the role individuals and communities can play in challenging racism and promoting greater equality, respect and social justice.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

This term, Year 8 pupils will begin their textiles module, taking inspiration from the work of artist Lucy Sparrow to design and create their own *Supermarket Stitch*-themed cushion. Throughout the project, pupils will develop a range of practical textiles skills, including creating their own templates, using appliqué and hand-sewing techniques, and developing their confidence using sewing and embroidery machines.

ART

Students will explore the theme of Portraiture, developing their tonal drawing skills and learning how to use a grid to achieve accurate shape, proportion and placement. They will study the individual features of the face, exploring how to represent them using a full range of tones and a variety of drawing techniques. These key skills will provide a strong foundation for students to apply and develop further in their Autumn 2 learning.



PSHE & RSE

Year 8 will continue their Jigsaw journey this half term, developing their understanding of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education alongside Relationships and Sex Education.

Through the Being Me in My World unit, pupils will explore identity, belonging, relationships, rights and responsibilities as they enter their final year with us. They will reflect on their strengths, values and aspirations, consider how their choices influence themselves and others, and explore respect, equality, diversity and positive relationships. Pupils will also consider their role within the wider community and develop the confidence, independence and responsibility they will need as they prepare for their next stage of education.

COMPUTING

This term, Year 8 pupils will be introduced to computer game design. Using RPG Playground, they will design and create their own role-playing game (RPG), while exploring the key principles of effective game design.

Pupils will consider how games use storytelling to take players on a journey and explore how non-player characters (NPCs) can be used to develop the narrative, provide information and guide players through an adventure. They will apply these skills to create an engaging and purposeful game of their own.



MUSIC

Year 8 will kick off the year exploring the parts of pop songs that hook the listener in. They will learn to play, compose and perform hooks and riffs and consider ways to develop musical ideas to make them more appealing. They will continue to develop their ensemble skills as well as use musical DAW technology.



HOMEWORK

In Year 8, pupils will be set weekly homework. This will include:

- A piece of Maths homework
- A piece of English homework
- Spellings

We also expect pupils to read at home at least three times each week.

Other subjects will set additional homework to aid learning outside of the classroom when needed. This will be added onto epraise.

For more information about our curriculum visit our webpage [Catshill Curriculum](#)

CAREERS

We are excited to welcome lots of visitors into school this year to discuss their careers and inspirations.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

From sports to creative arts and wellbeing, there's something for everyone. Clubs help pupils build skills, make friends, and enjoy new experiences in a fun, supportive environment. Log in via a parents/carers' epraise account to learn more.

	Lunchtime				
M		 KS3 Dodgeball	 Street Dance (Year 5, 6, 7, 8)	 KS3 Classics Club	
T		 KS3 Dodgeball			
W	 Choir	 KS2 Multi-Sports Club	 KS2 Boys Football	 Girls Football (Year 5, 6, 7 and 8)	 Performing Arts
T		 KS3 Boys Football	 Year 6, 7 and 8 Netball	 STAR Drama Club	