



Year 7 Autumn 1

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

MATHS

Throughout this term, pupils will begin by developing their understanding of algebraic thinking by using different representations (diagrammatically, tabular and graphically) to understand linear and non-linear sequences. They will use algebraic notation to express rules between the terms and explore two step equations. As the term progresses, learners will move on to place value and proportion, consolidating their understanding of the number system by comparing and rounding whole numbers and decimals. They will also continue to develop links between fractions, decimals and percentages, converting between them fluently and efficiently.

SCIENCE

This half term, pupils will learn about the particle model of solids, liquids and gases. They will be able to explain the arrangement of particles, their force of attraction and also to explain the energy that is involved in the changes between the states of matter. After that, they will use this information to apply it to the process of separating materials.



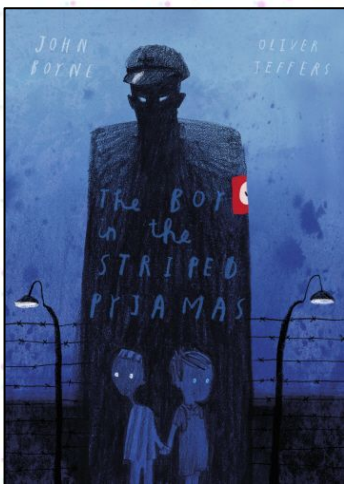
ENGLISH

Exploring History Through Literature

This term, our Year 7 pupils will be exploring John Boyne's thought-provoking novel *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. Through drama, discussion and creative writing, pupils will examine the novel's characters, relationships and themes while considering how fiction can help us engage with difficult moments in history.

Throughout the unit, pupils will critically compare Boyne's portrayal of Jewish people's experiences during the Holocaust with non-fiction accounts, developing their ability to distinguish between fictional representation and historical evidence. This will lead to an important classroom debate: Does *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* have a place in the modern British classroom? Pupils will then use their ideas to craft a persuasive opinion piece, drawing on evidence and developing clear, reasoned arguments.

Alongside their study of the novel, pupils will strengthen their SPaG knowledge and skills and explore a range of linked texts through Guided Reading, broadening their vocabulary, comprehension and critical reading skills.



MFL - SPANISH

Our module this half term builds on the language we acquired during KS2. We will be learning to talk about where we live, describing different types of houses and locations. As part of our grammar focus, we will continue to look at the use of prepositions and how to form the present tense. As we move into KS3, we will continue to build our confidence in building language "on the spot" in both writing and speaking.



HISTORY

This term, Year 7 pupils will explore the complex causes of the First World War and how the conflict unfolded. They will investigate what life was like for soldiers living and fighting on the front line, as well as considering the wider impact of the war on Britain and its Empire.

Pupils will examine the role of propaganda and how it was used to encourage young men to enlist, considering why these messages were so influential. They will also explore life on the Home Front, investigating how the war affected the lives and roles of those who remained in Britain.

GEOGRAPHY

This term, Year 7 pupils will explore the Middle East, developing their understanding of the countries, landscapes and varied climate zones that make up this diverse region. They will investigate the sustainability of Dubai and compare its approach to that of Masdar City.

Pupils will also explore some of the geopolitical issues affecting the Middle East and consider how these influence the region and the wider world. They will use their geographical knowledge to debate whether countries in the Middle East should host major international sporting events such as the FIFA World Cup.



PE

During this half term, pupils will develop their existing skills in football and basketball. There will be an increased focus on game play in year 7 across all sports and a focus on how tactics and strategies are introduced into games.

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



RE

During the Autumn Term, Year 7 will begin their study of Worldviews. They will be introduced to the concept of a worldview and explore how beliefs, values, experiences and culture shape the way people understand themselves, others and the world around them. Students will explore a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, considering both the similarities and differences between them, while developing an appreciation of the diversity of perspectives within society. They will also have opportunities to reflect on their own developing worldview and the factors that influence it.

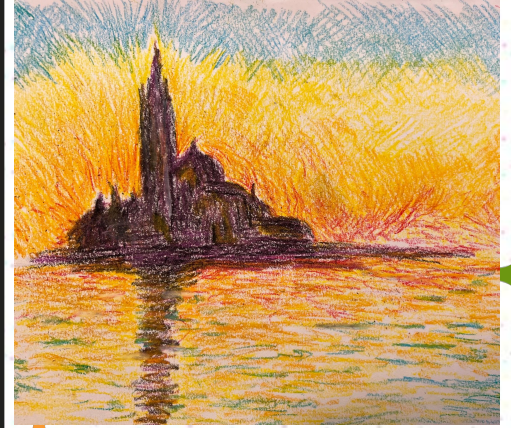
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

This term, Year 7 pupils will develop their practical workshop skills through the Skills Stand project. They will have the opportunity to design and make their own phone or book stand, using a range of techniques to construct and decorate their finished product.

Throughout the project, pupils will develop their confidence in skills such as sawing, sanding, drilling, painting, decoupage and screwing, as well as learning how to make and use dowel peg posts. They will also learn how to work safely and accurately with a range of tools, equipment and materials.

ART

Pupils will explore art as a visual timeline of history, focusing on the past 100 years through the study of three key artistic movements. They will begin in France during the 1860s, exploring the work of the Impressionist artists and the ways in which they captured light, colour and everyday life. Through practical exploration, pupils will develop their colour-mixing skills and experiment with a range of painting techniques, building a strong foundation of key skills in preparation for their learning in Autumn 2.



PSHE & RSE

Year 7 will continue their Jigsaw journey this half term, developing their understanding of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education alongside Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Through the Being Me in My World unit, pupils will explore identity, belonging, relationships, rights and responsibilities as they begin an important new stage of their education. They will consider what makes them unique, how their choices and behaviour affect others, and how to build positive relationships within our school community. Pupils will also explore democracy, diversity, equality, responsibility and having a voice, helping them to become confident, respectful and active members of their community.

COMPUTING

This term, Year 7 pupils will develop their understanding of computer networks. They will begin by exploring what a network is and the benefits of connecting computers and other devices together. Pupils will then investigate how data is transmitted across networks and learn about the role of protocols in ensuring devices can communicate effectively.



MUSIC

Year 7 will be performing and singing, listening and appraising, and exploring interrelated dimensions of music in their first topic of the year. They will compose their own creative piece of music in response to Benjamin Britten's Four Sea Interludes and use score writing conventions to write their music down as a graphic score.



HOMEWORK

In Year 7, 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

This term, we are excited to welcome a range of visitors into school to speak to our pupils about their life experiences and the different paths they have taken. These sessions will give pupils the opportunity to learn from others, ask questions and begin to think about their own aspirations, interests and possible pathways for the future.

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		KS2 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	