Year 8 Autumn 2

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

MATHS

This half term, the children will be developing their understanding of **coordinates and graphs,** learning to plot and interpret points in all four quadrants and exploring lines such as $y = x$, $y = mx$, and $y = mx + c$, including work on gradients and direct proportion.

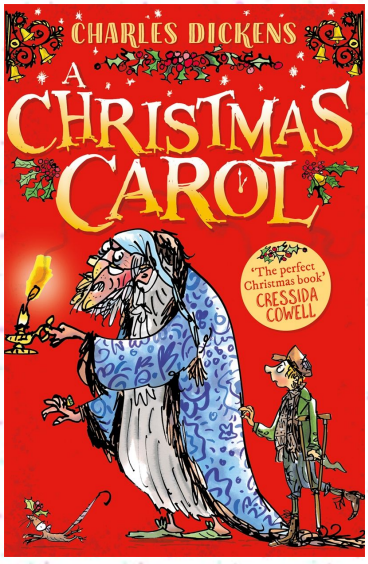
In **fractions,** they will learn how to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers, including by integers and unit fractions, and explore the concept of reciprocals.

Finally, in **symmetry and reflection** , the children will identify line and rotational symmetry and reflect shapes in horizontal, vertical, and diagonal lines.

SCIENCE

This half term, Year 8 pupils will develop their understanding of chemistry by exploring the periodic table, atoms and elements. They will investigate the differences between elements, compounds and mixtures, examining how particles are arranged and combined to form different substances.

Pupils will then explore chemical reactions, focusing on the differences between exothermic and endothermic reactions. Through practical investigations, they will develop their understanding of energy transfers and strengthen their scientific enquiry skills.



ENGLISH

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, Year Eight will explore Charles Dickens' timeless novella *A Christmas Carol*. Through shared reading, pupils will experience this classic story of transformation and generosity. Their first extended writing task will be a descriptive piece capturing the atmosphere of London's winter streets, followed by a diary entry written from Scrooge's perspective after his haunting encounter with Marley's ghost.

As the festive season approaches, pupils will be encouraged to reflect on the novella's enduring messages of kindness, compassion, and change.

MFL - SPANISH

This half term, pupils will continue exploring the topic of holidays, developing their ability to communicate in both the present and past tenses. They will learn how to describe previous holidays alongside their usual holiday experiences, applying their knowledge to increasingly detailed written and spoken work. Through reading and listening activities, pupils will focus on recognising different verb endings and time frames to identify who is carrying out actions and when they take place.



HISTORY

Following our fantastic trip to Worcester and the Commandery, Year 8 pupils will begin the half term by exploring the important role Worcester played in the English Civil War.

Pupils will then turn their attention to London during the 17th century, investigating two significant events that shaped life in the capital. They will explore the Great Plague of 1665, examining how London responded to the outbreak and drawing comparisons with the more recent COVID-19 pandemic. They will then study the Great Fire of London in 1666, considering its impact on the city and the lives of its inhabitants.

Throughout the topic, pupils will build their historical knowledge and understanding as they work towards answering the overarching enquiry question: 'What was life like in Stuart Britain?'

GEOGRAPHY

This half term, Year 8 pupils will continue their exploration of India, focusing on the impact of globalisation on the country and its people. They will investigate both the opportunities and challenges that globalisation brings, using real-life case studies to explore how individuals' lives have been affected. Pupils will analyse different perspectives and debate whether globalisation has improved quality of life for everyone.

They will also explore India's cultural and social diversity, considering how this influences equality and opportunities across the country. Towards the end of the topic, pupils will investigate what the future may hold for India, while developing their geographical reasoning and written responses through GCSE-style questions, helping to prepare them for the next stage of their education.



PE

This half term, pupils will continue to develop their skills in invasion games, with a particular focus on netball and rugby. They will work on applying strategies and tactics within gameplay.

We also have our Santa Dash taking place on Friday 11th December for all pupils. It's a great opportunity for pupils to get into the Christmas spirit and raise money for extra-curricular opportunities in school.





RE

During the Autumn Term, Year 8 will continue their study of Racism & Social Justice, exploring 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.

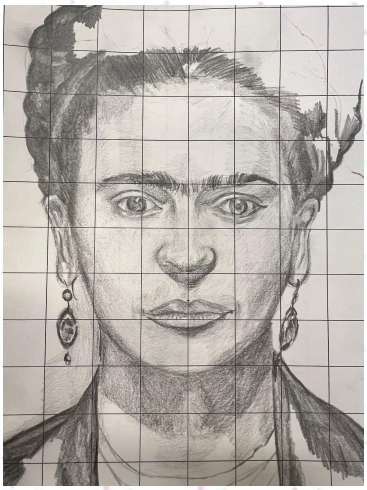
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

This term, Year 8 pupils will continue 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

This half term, pupils will continue their exploration of *Portraiture*, focusing on the life and work of renowned artist Frida Kahlo. They will study her distinctive artistic style, exploring how she used portraiture to express her identity, emotions and personal experiences.

Pupils will continue to refine their observational drawing and shading techniques, developing their understanding of tone, proportion and detail. To conclude the project, they will create a detailed tonal portrait of Frida Kahlo, showcasing the artistic skills and techniques they have developed throughout the term.



PSHE & RSE

This half-term, pupils will complete their 'Being Me in My World' topic, reflecting on their identity, relationships and responsibilities within their school community.

They will then move on to 'Celebrating Difference'. Pupils will explore prejudice, persecution, discrimination and social justice, including hate crime and LGBT-related bullying. They will develop their understanding of the Equality Act, multiculturalism and religious tolerance. Lessons will encourage pupils to challenge discrimination, stand up for their beliefs and celebrate differences within our diverse society.

COMPUTING

This half term, Year 8 pupils will develop their computing skills through the study of spreadsheets. They will learn how to use cell references and formulas to organise information and perform calculations accurately and efficiently.

As the unit progresses, pupils will explore how spreadsheets can be used to collect, manipulate and analyse data. They will also develop their skills in creating graphs and charts to present information clearly, building their confidence in using spreadsheets to solve problems and interpret data.



MUSIC

Year 8 are continuing with their Hooks and Riffs topic and they will be learning about riffs (ostinati) in classical music, before creating their own arrangement based on two famous rock riffs, exploring ways to modulate between the two.



CAREERS

Pupils are exploring the importance of planning for their future, developing a greater awareness of their individual strengths, skills and interests, and how these relate to different careers and opportunities. They are also considering the personal qualities, experiences and aspirations that can influence their future choices, helping them to recognise the range of pathways available and develop the confidence to make informed decisions about their next steps in education and beyond.

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.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Please see Epraise to sign up to our extra curricular club offer.

	Lunchtime				
M		KS3 Dodgeball	Street Dance (Year 5, 6, 7, 8)		
T	KS2 Mindfulness	KS2 Dodgeball	Craft Club		
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	

For more information about our curriculum visit our webpage Catshill Curriculum