Parent Information Booklet – S2 Curriculum Autumn Term 2026

English

This term's theme is 'Family and Friendship.'

Mrs Thompson

Near the start of term, pupils will complete written baseline assessments in reading and writing. They will complete the same assessment in the summer term, to check progress.

Pupils will study the play 'The Diary of Anne Frank'. They will be taught drama terminology and how to understand the writer's craft: plot development, character establishment and development, setting, language, themes and literary devices. We will also focus on how to infer from the text, a skill that is transferable to other aspects of the English curriculum and across the curriculum. Pupils will also be taught how to write creatively in response to the play. In addition, pupils will learn about Anne Frank and her family and the wider context of the play. They will complete tasks to develop reading, listening and note taking skills.

They will be taught and encouraged to use ambitious vocabulary and a wide range of punctuation to elevate the level of their written work.

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation skills will be developed throughout the term. The class will learn how to recognise the commands from different question types and the approaches needed to successfully show their comprehension of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Reading for pleasure will be promoted and pupils will visit the school library for one period a week. Reading homework has been issued and is due every 2 weeks.

Parents can help their young person at home by asking them about what they are reading as a school text and for pleasure and what they have done for homework. They could talk to them about plot, characters, themes and new vocabulary.

They could also encourage them to practise punctuation and writing skills. BBC Bitesize has a variety of activities to help develop pupils' skills

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbdxvcw

Mr Jones

Language and Literacy:

Near the start of term, pupils will complete written baseline assessments in reading and writing. They will complete the same assessment in the summer term, to check progress.

This term S2 will also be studying the play 'Johnny and the Dead', adapted from a Terry Pratchett novel. In this engaging play, 12-year-old Johnny Maxwell discovers he can see and talk to the ghosts in his local cemetery. When a greedy corporation plans to demolish the graveyard, Johnny and his friends unite with the dead to save their history. It is a humorous, thought-provoking story about community, standing up for what matters, and the importance of remembering our past.

- **Ask About Themes:** Chat about local history or family memories—ask, *"Why is it important to remember people from the past?"*
- **Drama Terms Check:** Ask them to explain the meaning of key concepts like **dramatic irony, characterisation** or **stage directions** in their own words and provide examples from the play.

As a class, we will discuss, find evidence for and evaluate the different themes within the play. This unit of work will involve pupils using their inference and critical thinking skills to write mini critical essay paragraphs within class. At the end of this unit, pupils will then develop their writing skills further and write a creative response.

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation:

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation skills will be developed throughout the term. The class will learn how to recognise the commands from different question types and the approaches needed to successfully show their comprehension of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Reading for pleasure will be promoted and pupils will visit the school library for one period a week. Parents and careers can always encourage more reading at home – this helps your child build their vocabulary, sparks imagination, and creates a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Maths

Mrs Chatterton & Mrs Millar

This term S2 will be working with BODMAS, decimals, time, money and working with scales. They will then sit an assessment before the October Holiday. Following the assessment the class will then work with properties of both 2D and 3D shapes and solving equations. They will also work on a money project. Homework will be given on a Wednesday to be handed in the following Tuesday.

Parents can help their students by asking them to talk about the maths that they are covering each week. Students can also use the following websites for help:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

https://www.national5maths.co.uk/s1-s2-courses/

Mr Archibald

This term Students will learn about different aspects of Money including Foreign Exchange, Best Buys, Best Deals and Credit and Debit Cards. Then S2 will start Patterns and Relationships – learning how to create formulae and plot lines. The last topic planned for this term is Angles including

corresponding and alternate angles before completing problems with angles. Homework will be given on Friday to be handed in the following Friday.

Parents can help their students by asking them to talk about the maths that they are covering each week. Students can also use the following websites for help:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

https://www.national5maths.co.uk/s1-s2-courses/

RME

This term S2 will be using the skill of analysis to examine the relationships between the Abrahamic faiths. They will learn about prophets, worship and key festivals. Pupils are encouraged to examine each faith (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) and recognise areas of similarity whilst respecting differences between them. Parents can support their young person by asking them to explain their learning and discuss issues surround it.

Social Subjects

Modern Studies

This term we are studying Crime & the Law. The class will be looking at causes of crime, consequences of crime, the Police, Prisons and Courts. We will be building on a range of skills in class which will be needed for further study in Modern Studies. Parents can support their children by encouraging them to keep up to date with current events in the news, follow different news outlets and reading a quality newspaper.

History

We will be consolidating History skills judging evidence and placing sources in context. We will be comparing the lifestyles of Ancient Romans with Scottish Celts. This will involve examining the similarities and differences between armies, beliefs, culture and housing. Parents can support their young person by asking them about their learning and prompting them to show empathy and an opinion on circumstances in the past.

Geography

The first topic covered in S2 Geography is the Nepal Earthquake. We'll start by reviewing the structure of the Earth and why earthquakes happen. We'll then move onto looking at the consequences and management of the Earthquake.

You can support your child at home by watching quality documentaries at home about natural disasters, keeping up to date with current world events is also helpful.

Art

This term, S2 pupils are developing their 3D art and sculpture skills through an exciting project where they will design and create a papier-mâché animal head. Pupils will begin by researching their chosen animal, sketching initial ideas, and exploring how to capture its unique features and personality through shape and form.

Throughout the term, they will experiment with different sculpture techniques, including building armatures, layering papier-mâché, and adding texture and detail to bring their creations to life. The project encourages creativity, problem-solving, and perseverance, while helping pupils gain confidence working with 3D materials.

How to Support at Home:

- Encourage your child to research their chosen animal, looking closely at its features, patterns, and textures.
- Provide opportunities to experiment with materials at home — such as cardboard, foil, or recycled items — to practice building 3D shapes.
- Visit a local museum, wildlife park, or online art gallery to explore how artists and sculptors represent animals in their work.
- Celebrate your child's creativity by discussing their progress and asking about the techniques they're learning in class.

Physical Education

S2 pupils will be undertaking blocks of Football, Basketball, Dodgeball and Longball this term. Extra-curricular clubs for Football, Rugby and Netball will also be available for pupils to attend. Please encourage your children to get plenty of exercise and physical activity through the Autumn term. Pupils and parents can also access the PE Dept. Website www.langholmpe.wordpress.com to find lots of learning resources and get updates about sporting success.

Personal Support Programme

Substance Misuse & Employability – S2 pupils will learn about the differences between legal and illegal drugs and the law behind them and child exploitation. They will be also taken through the Body image and messaging workshops by our Senior MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) pupils. Further input on MVP will be given across terms 2 and 3.

To support your child please provide them with an opportunity to discuss these topics with you. Useful website link https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/

Home Economics

Having built a foundation in kitchen safety, hygiene, first aid, and essential cooking skills such as knife handling and cleaning up after cookery, we're now ready to move forward. While these topics have been covered, they remain important — please encourage your child to revisit them regularly until they feel confident and capable.

🔍 This Term, We'll Focus On:

- Accurately weighing and measuring ingredients
- Safe and effective use of the cooker

- Handling a variety of kitchen equipment with confidence

Learners will prepare items such as **scones**, **pizza**, and **apple crumble**. These recipes will help reinforce practical skills while sparking creativity in the kitchen.

To help your child get the most out of their learning:

- Encourage them to cook at home whenever possible
- Remind them to tidy up after cooking and always work safely, doing tasks such as washing dishes or vegetable preparation regularly is beneficial
- Ensure they have **adult supervision** during any kitchen activities
- Please send them to class with a **container** so they can bring home their dishes

Biology

What your child is learning

During this part of S2 Biology, pupils are developing their understanding of Body Systems and how to monitor the health of their bodies.

- **Digestive system –** Identify the organs found in the digestive system and how to monitor body fat content.
- **Respiratory System –** Identify the organs found in the respiratory system and how to monitor body vital capacity and peak flow.
- **Circulatory System –** Identify the parts of the circulatory system and how to measure pulse, blood pressure and recovery time.
- **Immune system –** Identifying the different types of white blood cells
- **Microbes –** Introducing 3 different types of microbes and how they spread.
- **Vaccines –** Learning about the discovery of vaccines using knowledge of our immune system.

Where this is leading

These lessons are designed to give pupils a strong foundation for the senior phase. In particular, the multicellular organism unit at National 5 where they focus on the organisation of cells into tissues, organs and organ systems.

How you can support your child at home

You do not need to be a Biology expert to help. Asking your child to explain what they have learned is one of the most useful ways to support them.

- **Explain their learning.** Ask, “What did you learn in Biology today?” or “Can you explain that to me as if I knew nothing about Biology?”
- **Use the correct scientific vocabulary.** Encourage user of flashcards for vocabulary and organ names and functions.
- **Ask for help early.** Encourage your child to speak to their teacher if there is something they do not understand.

Chemistry

What your child is learning

During this part of S2 Chemistry, pupils are developing their understanding of chemical reactions and how chemists describe, measure and control them.

- **Chemical reactions –** recognising when a chemical reaction has taken place and distinguishing chemical changes from physical changes.

- **The particle model –** using particles to help explain what happens during chemical reactions.
- **Word equations –** identifying reactants and products and writing word equations to represent chemical reactions.
- **Energy changes –** investigating reactions that release energy and reactions that take in energy.
- **Rates of reaction –** understanding what we mean by the rate of a chemical reaction and learning how it can be measured.
- **Temperature –** investigating how changing temperature affects the rate of a reaction.
- **Concentration –** investigating how concentration affects reaction rate.
- **Surface area –** investigating why smaller pieces of a solid can react more quickly.
- **Catalysts –** learning how catalysts can increase the rate of a chemical reaction.
- **Practical and scientific skills –** carrying out experiments safely, making measurements, recording results and using evidence to reach conclusions.
- **Consolidation and revision –** revisiting key knowledge and skills to help pupils remember and apply what they have learned.

Where this is leading

These lessons are designed to give pupils a strong foundation for later Chemistry. In particular, word equations, energy changes and rates of reaction are important ideas that pupils will meet again as they progress towards National 5 Chemistry.

How you can support your child at home

You do not need to be a Chemistry expert to help. Asking your child to explain what they have learned is one of the most useful ways to support them.

- **Explain their learning.** Ask, "What did you learn in Chemistry today?" or "Can you explain that to me as if I knew nothing about Chemistry?"
- **Use the correct scientific vocabulary.** Encourage words such as reactant, product, chemical reaction, concentration, catalyst and rate of reaction.
- **Practise word equations.** Ask them what goes on the left (reactants) and right (products) of the arrow.
- **Spot Chemistry in everyday life.** Cooking, burning fuels, rusting, dissolving tablets and keeping food in the fridge can all provide opportunities to discuss chemical reactions and their rates.
- **Practise explaining rates of reaction.** Try questions such as, "Why might food spoil faster when it is warm?" or "Why would crushing a tablet make it react faster?"
- **Review little and often.** Around 5–10 minutes of regular retrieval practice is generally more useful than leaving revision until immediately before an assessment.
- **Ask for help early.** Encourage your child to speak to their teacher if there is something they do not understand.

Three questions any parent can ask

1. What did you learn today?
2. Can you explain it to me?
3. Can you give me an example?

If your child can explain an idea clearly that is a good indication that they understand it.

Physics

This term we will continue to study "Forces". We will investigate ways to reduce friction, find out how gravity affects us on Earth and on other planets and finally explore how the forces on an object determine how it moves by studying Newton's Laws of Motion.

Parents/carers can help support our young people by encouraging them to visit revision websites such as : BBC bitesize

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zjk2fg8

STEM

This term, S2 pupils are taking part in a series of **river-themed STEM lessons**, using our local environment to develop their scientific knowledge alongside practical and problem-solving skills. Pupils have been learning how to **identify and classify river invertebrates** and how the organisms found in a river can be used as indicators of **river health and water quality**. We are also hoping to work with outside agencies to give pupils the opportunity to develop practical skills in **river dipping and sampling**. Pupils have already enjoyed learning how to **cast a fly rod with local angler Jimmy Henderson**, providing a practical link between our rivers and the local community. Other activities this term include a **boat-building STEM challenge**, investigating **how water is treated to make it safe to drink**, exploring the factors that affect the **health of a river**, and considering **how climate change is affecting our rivers and freshwater environments**. Through these activities, we hope pupils will develop an appreciation of our local rivers while building their confidence in science, teamwork, problem-solving and practical STEM skills.

Business

Pupils will be working on an ICT project called Northgate Community Centre, where they will carry out a range of administrative tasks using Microsoft Word and database software, including Microsoft Access. Through the project, pupils will develop their practical ICT skills while learning how these applications are used in a real-world workplace. Pupils will also learn about the importance of health and safety in the workplace, including safe working practices, appropriate use of equipment, and how to maintain a safe and healthy working environment. You can support your child by encouraging them to practise their ICT skills at home, particularly using Microsoft Word and database software such as Access. You can also reinforce the importance of health and safety by talking about safe working practices, such as maintaining good posture, taking regular screen breaks, keeping work areas tidy, and using electrical equipment safely.

Music

Pupils will focus on their 2 chosen classroom instruments and have the opportunity to play a variety of music. We will consolidate our ability to perform as a group and use peer and self-assessment as well as ongoing teacher feedback to improve our practical skills. We will be using Musicals as a basis for exploring voice types, genres, instruments and other general musical concepts. Lastly, pupils will have opportunities to invent and create music across a variety of activities, including a digital music unit which allows pupils to create sound for a section of film.

To support your young person, please try and instil the concept of improving through practise- getting it wrong is a major part of getting it right in music!

Computing: Mr Wood

S2 pupils receive two 45-minute Computing Science lessons each week and one piece of homework per term.

This term, pupils will develop their programming skills using Scratch to create a 2D platform game called Arcade Quest. The project introduces pupils to more complex game development, Pupils should regularly revisit class activities, practise these skills, and make use of the course resources provided to support their learning.

Pupils will create a controllable character that can move, jump, and interact with platforms. They will use variables, selection, repetition, and events to create features such as collectable items, scoring, enemies, lives, and a countdown timer. As the project progresses, pupils will combine these features to create increasingly complex game mechanics and interactions.

Problem-solving and debugging will be an important part of the project. Pupils will regularly evaluate their game, identify and correct errors in their code, and make improvements to ensure various parts of their program work together correctly.

By the end of the project, pupils will have gained further experience in programming, problem-solving and debugging, while developing their confidence in combining programming constructs to create more complex programs and games.

British Sign Language

S2 pupils receive two periods a week learning British Sign language. This term we will be looking at what British sign language is (background, variations within BSL, the deaf community, other signing systems). **Fingerspelling** (Alphabet and spelling out words), **numbers** (1-100+), **Colours** (learn to sign 'sing a rainbow'), **Organisations** for the deaf/partial deaf community, signs for Organisations and **Halloween** signs. At the end of each block of learning pupils will complete an online assessment.

Homework will be online via the sign language course pupils will be enrolled in. This can be accessed through any device with internet. Pupils will be encouraged to revise material learnt in their lessons or catch up on any work missed. Log in details will be emailed to each pupil's glow account. www.british-sign.co.uk.