



BENSHAM MANOR School

English KS3 Curriculum Plan 2025-26

Reading, writing and speaking and listening skills throughout each unit will be tailored to suit the needs of the individual class - each key skill will continue to be developed in each unit and continued through to the next in addition to new ones.

	YEAR 7		YEAR 8		YEAR 9	
	Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 1	Pathway 2
Autumn Term 1	Baseline assessments and phonics Cloud Busting - Malorie Blackman A funny and moving story, told completely in verse about an unlikely friendship that develops between two students. Key skills - understand the events in a story, retell some events in a story, create sentences independently, sequence sentences into short narratives, make relevant contributions, listen in a range of different situations, use . and	Baseline assessments and phonics Dragon Eggs - Phonics Books An exciting quest story comprising ten stories to support emerging readers as well as develop reading skills through phonics. Key skills - understand what has been read, join in predictable refrains or phrases, simple remembering, form letters, read words using Phase 2 and beyond. Follow instructions and simple requests, take turns, listen and follow simple texts.	Survival This unit introduces students to a variety of unseen and challenging texts modern and pre 20th century to improve their critical reading skills. Students will have plenty of creative and written opportunities to develop their writing and create personal responses. Key skills - listen to and discuss a range of fiction and non-fiction, draw inferences about characters' feelings, thoughts and motives, spell subject topic words,	Island Project An exciting unit that looks at how to survive on a desert island, through diary writing, creating your own desert island, posters and leaflets and videoclips from the film Castaway to support you. Key skills - listen to /watch and discuss fiction and non-fiction, draw basic inferences about characters' feelings and thoughts, learn some subject topic words, plan ideas with support before writing, attempt to use And capital letters.	Stone Cold - Robert Swindells A novel that looks at a character who is homeless and how they survive on the streets of London. A dual narrative novel from the contrasting viewpoints of two of the main characters. Key skills - identify and discuss themes and conventions, predict what might happen, read work aloud with expression, volume and pitch, use pronouns or nouns appropriately, use intonation to emphasise grammar and punctuation when reading aloud.	Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare A play about love and hate and two families feuding - will love conquer hate? Key skills - 'Reading' a play, ask relevant questions to improve understanding, read topic and literary based terminology, choose the best vocabulary choice when writing, explain an idea to a group of peers.

	capital letters with some accuracy.		plan ideas before writing, use . ? !		Stone Cold - adapted version available.	
Autumn Term 2	Introduction to creative writing An introduction to different techniques to use when writing creatively as well as looking at creative writing from a range of authors. Key skills - talk about events in a story or extract and retell, answer questions and make inferences, explain clearly what has been read, attempt to make contributions that are relevant, use past, present and future mostly accurately, write using adjectives, verbs and, similes.	Introduction to creative writing An introduction to different techniques to use when writing creatively as well as looking at creative writing from a range of authors. Key skills - make comments about events in a story or extract and retell with some accuracy, answer questions and make simple inferences, use adjectives and verbs, begin to use . and capital letters more accurately.	A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens A lovely novel to study before Christmas. A look at how a character can change their ways for the better. Key skills - explain and discuss an understanding of what has been read, make simple additions, revisions and corrections to writing, engage in discussions, making relevant points.	A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens adapted version A lovely novel to study before Christmas. A look at how a character can change their ways for the better. Key skills - show a basic undertaking of the plot and characters, make simple additions to your written work, engage in whole class, pair and group work.	Education Across the World A non-fiction unit that looks at education around the world. Is education a right? Key skills - retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction, participate in discussions challenging views with courtesy, evaluate and edit through self and peer assessment suggesting improvements, use a mixture of sentence lengths to add interest to discussions and explanations.	Poetry - Weather This unit focuses on poems about the weather, using visuals and hands-on activities to understand the poems, create poems and understand basic poetic techniques. Key skills - answer Blank 2 and 3 questions, make simple conclusions, read poems aloud that match reading ability, understand and identify and use subject terms related to poetry, use voice with expression in front of a group.
Spring Term 1	The Harder They Fall - Bali Rai A novel about friendship, growing up in the 21st century and the challenges this brings.	Cloud Busting - Malorie Blackman A funny and moving story, told completely in verse about an unlikely friendship that develops between two students.	Once - Morris Gleitzman A novel set in World War Two in Poland, seen through the eyes of a young Jewish boy called Felix.	Happy Feet Using the film 'Happy Feet' students will explore and create non-fiction writing through topics such as penguins, Antarctica and	Romeo and Juliet - William Shakespeare A play about love and hate and two families feuding - will love conquer hate? Key skills -	Happy Feet Using the film 'Happy Feet' students will explore and create non-fiction writing through topics such as penguins,

	Key skills - understand the events in a story, retell events in a story, create sentences independently, sequence sentences into longer narratives, make relevant contributions, listen in a range of different situations, use . and capital letters with more accuracy.	Key skills - understand the events in a story, retell some events in a story, create sentences independently, sequence some sentences into short narratives, attempt to make relevant contributions, listen in a range of different situations most of the time.	Key skills - read books that are structured in different ways and read for a range of purposes, continue to read common exception words/subject topic words, use the possessive apostrophe, understand and use present and past tense.	environmental issues. Key skills - read aloud many words quickly and accurately, understand and may begin to use. ? ! with some accuracy, ask simple questions about a topic.	Revise skills 'Reading' a play, ask specific questions to improve understanding, read topic and literary based terminology, choose the best vocabulary choice when writing, explain an idea to a group of peers.	Antarctica and environmental issues. Key skills - read aloud more words quickly and accurately, understand and may begin to use. ? ! with more accuracy and consistency, ask specific questions about a topic, present ideas.
Spring Term 2	The Harder They Fall - Bali Rai A novel about friendship, growing up in the 21st century and the challenges this brings. Key skills - understand the events in a story, retell events in a story, create sentences independently, sequence sentences into longer narratives, make relevant contributions, listen	Cloud Busting - Malorie Blackman A funny and moving story, told completely in verse about an unlikely friendship that develops between two students. Key skills - understand the events in a story, retell some events in a story, create sentences independently, sequence some sentences into short narratives, attempt to make relevant contributions, listen in a range of different	Once - Morris Gleitzman A novel set in World War Two in Poland, seen through the eyes of a young Jewish boy called Felix. Key skills - read books that are structured in different ways and read for a range of purposes, continue to read common exception words/subject topic words, use the possessive apostrophe, understand and use	Happy Feet Using the film 'Happy Feet' students will explore non-fiction writing through topics such as penguins, Antarctica and environmental issues. Key skills - read aloud many words quickly and accurately, understand and may begin to use. ? ! with some accuracy, ask simple questions about a topic.	Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare A play about love and hate and two families feuding - will love conquer hate? Key skills - Revise skills 'Reading' a play, ask specific questions to improve understanding, read topic and literary based terminology, choose the best vocabulary choice when writing, explain an idea to a group of peers.	Happy Feet Using the film 'Happy Feet' students will explore non-fiction writing through topics such as penguins, Antarctica and environmental issues. Key skills - read aloud more words quickly and accurately, understand and may begin to use. ? ! with more accuracy and consistency, ask specific questions about a topic, present ideas.

	in a range of different situations, use . and capital letters with more accuracy.	situations most of the time.	present and past tense.			
Summer Term 1	Planets and Space A non-fiction unit about all things space! Researching, creating fact files explain how rockets work, write astronaut instructions, create posters, and even send letters to space agencies. Key skills - understand how non-fiction is different from fiction, use bullet points and other conventions of non fiction writing, speak formally and informally, sometimes speak with confidence, ask specific questions to develop understanding and knowledge.	Planets and Space A non-fiction unit about all things space! Researching, creating fact files explain how rockets work, write astronaut instructions, create posters, and even send letters to space agencies. Key skills - Identify how non-fiction is different from fiction, use bullet points and headings, speak formally and informally, sometimes speak with confidence, ask relevant questions to develop understanding and knowledge.	Frankenstein - Philip Pullman (play version) Understand how to read a play, take on the role of different characters, role-play and learn about the original novel by Mary Shelley. Key skills - 'Reading' a play, reading for different purposes, using evidence to reinforce ideas, use role-play, work in groups to present an idea or scene.	Voices Poetry Your voice, other voices and viewpoints from a range of poets. Key skills - answer Blank 1 and 2 questions, make simple conclusions, read poems aloud that match reading ability, understand and identify subject terms related to poetry, use voice with expression.	Gothic Literature A focus on the genre of gothic fiction using short extracts from a range of authors. Continuing to write creatively using the conventions of the gothic genre. Key skills - identify and discuss themes and conventions, predict what might happen, use literary techniques to create gothic writing, use punctuation to develop sentence structures.	Gothic Literature A focus on the genre of gothic fiction using short extracts from a range of authors. Continuing to write creatively using the conventions of the gothic genre. Key skills - identify simple gothic conventions, predict what might happen, use basic literary techniques to create gothic writing, use adjectives and verbs, listen and feedback simple ideas about plot, setting, character etc.
Summer Term 2	Introduction to Shakespeare - Who was Shakespeare and what was life in Shakespearian England?	Introduction to Shakespeare - Who was Shakespeare and what was life in Shakespearian England?	Voices Poetry Your voice, other voices and viewpoints from a range of poets. Key skills - answer Blank 3 and	Monsters Inc. Explore Monsters Inc. through activities including writing stories, describing characters, creating dialogue, acting out scenes and watching	Different Cultures Poetry Looking at cultural heritage as well as poetry from different cultures and viewpoints. Students will write their own	Monsters Inc. Explore Monsters Inc. through activities including writing stories, describing characters, creating dialogue, acting out

	Key skills - discuss and sequence events, read aloud from information closely matching phonic knowledge, use . ? ! with some accuracy after, make simple additions, revisions and corrections to writing, speak in a way that is clear and easy to understand.	Key skills - sequence events, read aloud from information closely matching phonic knowledge, use . and capital letters accurately after, make simple additions, revisions and corrections to writing, speak in a way that is clear and easy to understand.	4 questions including 'what', 'when' 'who', 'why', 'how' etc. use inference to make conclusions, read poems aloud that match reading ability, understand, identify and use subject terms related to poetry, use voice with expression.	film clips. Key skills - begin to identify and add s, es, ing, ed, er, est to the end of words, use present and past tense mostly correctly, blend and read according to Phonics phase, read some words accurately, use a wider range of words so listeners understand.	poem about themselves. Key skills - identify and discuss themes, identify and use poetic techniques in explanations and own poetry, evaluate poetry using P.E.E, make relevant comments to show understanding.	scenes and watching film clips. Key skills - add s, es, ing, ed, er, est to the end of words, use present and past tense correctly, blend and read according to Phonics phase, read most words accurately, use carefully chosen words so listeners understand.
--	---	---	---	---	--	--

Bookmark

Blank level questions

Level 1: Naming

Find one like this
Show me what you heard
Show me what you touched
What did you hear?
What did you touch?
What is this?
Say this...
What did you see?

Level 2: Describing

Find one that is ...
Find one that can ...
Who is ...?
Finish this sentence ...
What is this for?
Tell me about this thing?
What does it do?
Find one that is ... and ...
How are these different?
What else is a ...? (category)
What is happening?

Bookmark

Blank level questions

Level 3: Re-telling

What will happen next?
What is ... going to say?
How are these the same?
Tell me the story...
Tell me one that's not ...?
What does ... mean?
How did ... feel?
What have they done so far?
Tell me how to...
What happened to all of these?

Level 4: Justifying

What will happen if ...?
Why do you like...?
How did that happen?
What would you do if ...?
Why is it made of that?
How can we tell?
Why can't he ...?
If you were ...what would do?
What could we use... why?