BENSHAM MANOR School

English KS3 Curriculum Map 2026-27

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	**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.	turns, listen and follow simple texts.	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 environmental	**Romeo and Juliet - William Shakespeare** A play about love and hate and two families feuding - will love conquer hate? **Key skills -**	**Inside Out 1** Using the film 'Inside Out 1', students will explore and create a range of non-fiction texts inspired by themes including emotions, mental wellbeing,

	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.	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.	friendships, family relationships and understanding themselves and others. **Key skills -** Use visual clues to understand characters and plot, 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	**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	**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	**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	**Inside Out 2** Using the film '*Inside Out 2'*, students will explore and create a range of non-fiction texts inspired by themes including identity, growing up, anxiety, resilience, peer influence, confidence and positive mental health. **Key skills -** Develop understanding of empathy through the film, read aloud

	narratives, make relevant contributions, listen in a range of different situations, use . and capital letters with more accuracy.	contributions, listen in a range of different situations most of the time.	possessive apostrophe, understand and use present and past tense.		an idea to a group of peers.	more words quickly and accurately, understand and may begin to use. ? ! with more accuracy and consistency, ask specific questions about a topic, present ideas.
Summer Term 1	**Exploring Mars with Curiosity** A non-fiction unit about the space rover Curiosity and its journey to Mars. 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.	**Exploring Mars with Curiosity** A non-fiction unit about the space rover Curiosity and its journey to Mars. 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? **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.	**Introduction to Shakespeare -** Who was Shakespeare and what was life in Shakespearian England? **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.	**Voices Poetry** Your voice, other voices and viewpoints from a range of poets. **Key skills -** answer Blank 3 and 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.	**Monsters Inc.** Explore Monsters Inc. through activities including writing stories, describing characters, creating dialogue, acting out scenes and watching 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.	**Different Cultures Poetry** Looking at cultural heritage as well as poetry from different cultures and viewpoints. Students will write their own 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.	**Wall-E** Using the film *WALL·E* as a stimulus, students will develop their non-fiction reading and writing skills by exploring environmental issues, climate change, waste and recycling, technology, space exploration and the impact of human choices on the future of our planet. **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.