

Tolkien Spring 1 2026



Acorn Park

History

In this term the learner will be considering 6th century Asia, looking at how life and culture changed in the period in China, Korea and Japan. This includes looking at cultural forces like Buddhism and the introduction of tea.

Art

This half term, students will be exploring the theme *Far Away Places* through an Art & Design project focused on visual storytelling and cultural inspiration. Lessons will look at how artists represent places, people and identities using line, shape, pattern and simple perspective. Drawing will be used as a core skill, alongside opportunities to develop ideas through colour, texture and mixed-media processes. Activities will be structured to enable students to make choices and develop key art skills such as composition and practical art techniques.

Computing

This unit takes learners on a journey of discovery of techniques that cybercriminals use to steal data, disrupt systems, and infiltrate networks. The learners will start by considering the value their data holds and what organisations might use it for. They will then learn about social engineering and other common cybercrimes, and finally look at methods to protect against these attacks.

Maths

This half term, Tolkien will begin by exploring rates of change, developing their understanding of how values increase and decrease over time and how these can be represented and interpreted. They will then move on to standard form, learning how to work confidently with very large and very small numbers and apply this to calculations in context. To conclude the half term, the class will focus on maths and money, applying core mathematical skills to real-life financial situations such as budgeting, income, expenditure and comparison of costs.

RE

In this term the learners will be considering what we mean by the word sacred. They shall be examining what is considered sacred in Christianity, Muslims and Pagans and what the purpose of the Sacred is.

English

Year 9 students will be studying *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, exploring how the story develops through character, plot, and theme, as well as how a play script differs from a novel. Students will analyse key ideas such as friendship, family, choice, and identity, while developing skills in reading comprehension, inference, and creative writing. As part of this module, students will also take part in an educational visit to Warner Bros. Studio Tour London, where they will explore sets, costumes, and stagecraft to deepen their understanding of how stories are brought to life on stage and screen.

Science

Year 9 students will begin studying AQA GCSE Physics – Unit 1: Energy and AQA GCSE Chemistry – Unit 9: Chemistry of the Atmosphere. In Physics, students will learn about different energy stores, energy transfers, and how energy is used and conserved in everyday situations. In Chemistry, they will explore the composition of the Earth's atmosphere, how it has changed over time, and the impact of human activity on air pollution and climate change. Lessons will include calm, guided demonstrations and practical activities to help students understand these concepts through real-life examples. Our aim is to build confidence, curiosity, and a positive approach to GCSE Science in a structured and supportive learning environment.

PE

Tolkien class will be working on badminton this term. They will be developing their knowledge of the rules and regulations of the sport. They will also develop their physical skills of forehand and backhand grip and serve. The class will begin to look at different types of shot in a badminton match. They will be given the opportunity for competitive play

DT

This term, students will be learning about the material families of papers and boards and researching into what makes the different materials in their respective families good for the products made with them. Students will be focusing on formal and freehand sketching and learning how to develop their design process into something that could be used in a GCSE NEA portfolio. In practical lessons, students will increase their skills with papers and boards by using them to create different prototypes of designs they have made.

PSHE

This term we will be exploring perceptions about intimate relationships, consent, sexual exploitation, peer approval, child on child abuse, grooming, radicalisation, county lines, risky experimentation, positive and negative self-identity, groups, influences, social media, abuse and coercion, coercive control in groups and fitting in.

during singles and doubles matches throughout the term. Tolkien class will also be looking at hockey. They will again, learn the rules and regulations of the game and begin to develop their understanding of tactical play.

Geography

This half term students will be learning about the following: To understand that rock is a mixture of natural compounds called minerals. To understand that continents and oceans slowly move around and change shape, because they are carried on moving plates. To understand that Britain has rock from all three rock groups. To understand that the features of a landscape are related to the type of rock and to understand that we depend on soil.

Citizenship

Topic: why do people move around the world?
This half term we will be exploring why people migrate to the UK, we will be looking at climate change, children's rights. We will be looking in more detail at the benefits and drawbacks of immigration and the effects on the wider communities.