

Tolkien Term Curriculum Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome back — we hope you had a lovely break! This overview gives you a snapshot of what your child will be learning this term, along with key information and ways you can support at home.

Our Topic: Exploring

This term, we will be exploring the world around us — from our local environment to different places and cultures. Learning will focus on building communication, curiosity and independence through practical, engaging activities.

What your child will be learning

English

Year 10 students will continue to build their confidence and skills in English Language and Literature, alongside Functional Skills English where appropriate. GCSE Literature lessons will focus on Jekyll and Hyde and the Power and Conflict poetry anthology, focusing on key characters, themes, quotations and important contextual ideas. Students will develop their ability to understand texts, explain writers' choices and construct clear, supported responses. English Language lessons will develop reading, writing and communication skills through a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. Regular exam-style activities, discussion and guided practice will help students prepare confidently for their examinations.

Maths

This half term, students studying Further Maths will be developing their algebraic skills and tackling more challenging. They will cover solving linear equations, expanding brackets, factorising, binomial expansion, rearranging formulae and algebraic fractions, alongside opportunities to apply these skills to more complex algebraic challenges. The focus will be on developing accuracy, logical thinking and confidence when working with increasingly challenging mathematical problems.

Science

This half-term, students are advancing their GCSE studies through AQA B2 Organisation in biology and AQA P3 Particle Model of Matter in physics. In biology, they will study how complex organ systems work together, focusing on the digestive system, enzymes, heart structure, and plant transport systems. In physics, students will explore the arrangement and motion of particles in solids, liquids, and gases, calculating density, internal energy, and specific heat capacity through hands-on practicals. Supported by clear visual diagrams, chunked instructions, and structured scaffolded tasks, we are guiding students to apply their knowledge confidently to core GCSE practicals and exam-style questions.

PSHE

Building confidence and independence
- Practising turn-taking and working with others
- Learning how to stay safe in the community

Acorn Park School

Enrichment opportunities

We will bring learning to life through:

- Local trips (e.g. shops, park) to practise real-world skills
- Outdoor learning and exploration

Dates etc

- Topic-themed days and celebrations
- Simple cooking activities

Supporting learning at home

If you're keen to support your child's learning at home, the best way to do this is to read to or with your child regularly. The children are welcome to borrow books from our library at any point in the year.

Should you wish to do some more with your child at home, please contact the class teacher.

We're here to help

Your child's class teacher is: Jeremiah & Megan

Your child's support staff are: Katie & Josh

We're always happy to talk, please call the school if you want to arrange a time to meet or discuss anything