

# English

**Curriculum Manager:** Mrs K Dunleavy

**Teaching Staff:** Mrs C McCarthy, Mrs L Packwood, Miss A Beecroft, Miss L Clayton, Mr I Taylor, Miss J Dixon, Mr P Evans, Miss C Robert, Miss H Dorward, Miss J Shaw, Mr C Hackett, Mrs M Thompson, Mrs S Speakman.

**Curriculum Overview:** Pupils will begin their journey through English starting with the classic tale of 'Alice in Wonderland'. A text chosen to introduce pupils to 19<sup>th</sup> century literature and a transition unit between primary and secondary English lessons. After Christmas, pupils will then read Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', moving onto a selection of 'twisted tales' such as Edgar Allen Poe's 'The tell-tale heart' and H.G. Wells 'The red room' after Easter. Pupils will practise both reading and writing skills for each unit of study, and enjoy a variety of activities in lessons. In every scheme skills to prepare pupils for their GCSE studies are embedded.

**Topic Studied- Term 1**

Alice in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll. Pupils will study this class reader and practise a wide range of reading skills such as skimming and scanning, interpreting, analysing and evaluating. They will look at the use of language and structure to examine the effects of a writers' choices on the reader. Following this, the pupils will use the text as a stimulus to practise writing skills such as letter writing and creative writing.

**Topic Studied- Term 2**

Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' is studied closely this term, and pupils delve into the context learning about life at the time Shakespeare was writing and how that shaped the text. Dramatic techniques are also introduced to pupils so that they can begin to examine how they shape the effects of the play on the audience. As with the previous term, creative writing skills are also practised.

**Topic Studied- Term 3**

A selection of 'Twisted Tales' from the 19<sup>th</sup> century are read and examined. Pupils also explore the context of Victorian life and how those factors influenced the stories. This then prepares pupils to write their own twisted tale thinking closely about how they are using language and structure to engage and sustain the interest of a reader.

**Assessments:**

Reading and writing assessments take place each term. On top of this there will also be spelling tests and subject terminology tests. In Year 7 pupils also have three reading tests provided by the Accelerated Reader program. These tests give guidance about each individual pupils reading age.

**Homework:**

Homework is set each week by the class teacher. In the case where a class has more than one teacher it is the teacher the pupils see most who sets the homework. Pupils should also be spending time reading at home to support their literacy skills.

**Other Useful Information:**

Throughout the year we celebrate various events which help us to engage pupils with the subject. Roald Dahl Day, National Poetry Day, Harry Potter Night, World Book Day and Readathon are examples of such events.