



Autumn 1 2026

Curriculum Newsletter

Our Big Question...



This half term in KS3



This half term, our topic "Grand Designs" will take pupils on an exciting journey into the world of architecture, design and engineering. Throughout the term, pupils will explore famous buildings and landmarks from around the world, discovering how they were designed and what makes them unique. Pupils will investigate different architectural styles, materials and structures, while developing their understanding of how places are shaped by their history and culture.

As part of the topic, pupils will research and create fact files about well-known Portsmouth landmarks, including their history, purpose and design features. They will also have opportunities to design and build their own structures and Stain Glass Windows, applying creativity, problem-solving and teamwork skills to become architects and engineers of the future.

In Science, pupils will explore how living things have adapted and changed over time, learning how fossils provide evidence of extinct species and how DNA carries information that leads to variation within species. They will investigate how plants and animals differ across the world and explain how habitats and environmental conditions influence where organisms live. Pupils will also consider how human activities, such as deforestation and new housing developments, can affect ecosystems and lead to extinction, while recognising the importance of maintaining biodiversity to protect our planet.

In Geography, pupils will develop their map-reading and navigation skills by using map symbols, compass directions, grid references and other map features to describe routes and locate places. They will explore their local area through maps, identifying key landmarks and practising simple navigation skills with increasing accuracy and confidence. Pupils will also investigate the location of continents, oceans and important countries around the world, using map evidence to compare places and understand their global position. As their understanding develops, they will use geographical vocabulary such as hemispheres, latitude and longitude to explain where places are located and how they are connected.

Linking to our Grand Designs topic, pupils will use maps to examine how the location of settlements, landmarks and buildings is influenced by geographical features and the surrounding environment. They will learn how architects and planners use geographical information when designing and positioning buildings, helping them understand the relationship between people, places and the built world.

In Mathematics, pupils will develop their skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, along with linking this to fractions. Pupils will apply these skills to real-life investigations and problem-solving activities linked to our topic.

We will end the half term our Fantastic Finish is the pupils hosting a bus tour of Portsmouth using their fact files they have made about Landmarks. Unfortunately, we cannot invite families on this trip, but will be putting their hard work into a booklet to take home to share with you all.

We look forward to a fantastic half term of discovery and learning.

Learning Objectives

English

Year 8 -

- I can use phonic rules to attempt unfamiliar spellings.
- I can spell most everyday and subject-specific words correctly.
 - I can spell irregular/technical words
- I can develop techniques for finding correct spellings of unknown words.
 - I can use a dictionary with minimal adult support
- I can use the first, second and third place letters to sequence words in alphabetical order

Year 9 -

- I can apply spelling rules and phonics patterns consistently.
- I can use a dictionary and thesaurus effectively.

Maths

Year 8 -

- I can add and subtract whole numbers using written methods.
- I can multiply and divide using times tables facts and written methods.
 - I can use fractions such as $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{10}$ in calculations.

Year 9 -

- I can use place value to work with numbers up to 10,000.
 - I can multiply 2-digit by 2-digit numbers.
 - I can divide 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers.
- I can use fractions, decimals and percentages to describe amounts.

Science

- I can explain how living things adapt and change over time.
- I can describe how habitats and environments affect plants and animals around the world.
 - I can explain how fossils and DNA provide evidence about living things.
- I can understand how human activities can impact biodiversity and lead to extinction.
 - I can describe how rocks form and why different building materials are used.
 - I can explain how the Earth's movement causes day and night.
- I can investigate how the Sun's position affects shadows and building design.
- I can compare materials and explain why some are insulators or conductors.

Geography

- I can use maps, symbols and compass directions to locate places and describe routes.
 - I can use maps to find and navigate around my local area.
 - I can use grid references and map features to accurately locate places.
- I can compare the locations of continents, oceans and countries using maps.
- I can explain where places are in the world using geographical terms such as latitude, longitude and hemispheres.

DT

- I can plan, create and evaluate design projects.
 - I can research and develop design ideas.
- I can use tools and materials accurately, safely and responsibly.
 - I can apply practical craft and construction skills.
- I can use DT vocabulary to describe my work and processes.
- I can follow key health and safety procedures in DT.

Life Skills

- I can understand the factors that influence my health and wellbeing and make informed choices to support a healthy lifestyle.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

- I can recognise, understand and talk about a range of emotions, and identify the difference between everyday feelings and signs of mental ill health.

PSHE

- I can understand what healthy relationships look like and develop the skills to build and maintain positive relationships online and offline.

Diary Dates:



September:

Monday 13th - Cultural Awareness Day

Friday 25th - Macmillan Cake Sale

October:

Friday 1st - Wymering Family Quiz from 3pm

Friday 23rd - Weird & Wonderful Day - Optional fancy dress

Monday 26th to Friday 30th - HALF TERM



November:

Thursday 12th - Parents Evening

Friday 13th - Children in Need

December:

Friday 4th - Inset Day

Friday 11th - Whole School trip to Pantomime

Monday 14th - Pop Up Christmas Market & Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 15th - Christmas Lunch (Pizza)

Friday 18th - Last Day of Term – Optional Non Uniform Day and 1pm finish

March 2027:

Monday 8th to Wednesday 10th - KS3 Residential



Cooking

Dockyard - Monday

Spinnaker - Monday

Langstone - Tuesday

Frogmore - Wednesday

On cooking days, pupils may wish to bring a named container to take home any food they make, where appropriate.

PE

Langstone - Monday

Spinnaker - Tuesday

Dockyard - Wednesday

Frogmore - Thursday

Pupils may wear their PE kit for the entire school day on their designated PE day.

Adventure Learning sessions will take place throughout the term but will not be scheduled on a fixed weekly day. Staff will notify pupils and parents of their allocated session and any required equipment during the week beforehand.



Don't forget to follow

'The Wymering School'

on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates of what we have been up too!

Contact Us

Please send emails to for the class team to
KS3@thewymeringschool.com

If your child is absent:
Attendance@thewymeringschool.com

