Mandarin Scheme of Work – Termly UK Academic Year 2026–2027

At Apex Primary Schools, learning Mandarin opens the door to one of the world's most widely spoken languages. Pupils develop Ambition by embracing new challenges, Collaboration through speaking and learning together, and Respect by valuing the language and culture of others. Mandarin inspires confidence, curiosity, and prepares pupils for a connected global future.

Year 3 Mandarin

Term	Vocabulary (汉字 / Pinyin)	Phonics	Grammar/ Radicals	Culture	Learning Objective
Autumn Term 1 Exploring China & Introductions	中国 Zhōngguó 我 wǒ I Numbers 1-10	Tones 1–4	Greetings 我叫 name 我 age 岁	China, map, greetings	To be able to introduce ourselves in Mandarin
Autumn Term 2 Me and my family	妈妈 māma mum / 爸爸 bàba dad / 家 jiā family	a o e / ü	我家有…口人	Moon festival Family values	To be able to say our family members *Complete Autumn Assessment (L, R&W)*
Spring Term 1 Pets & Days of the week	狗 gǒu dog / 猫 māo cat / 新年 xīnnián 星期 (number)	ao ou / eng	我有/没有…	The Animal Race Legend Chinese New Year	to be able to say what pets we have/don't have
Spring Term 2 Colours and where I'm from	红色 hóngsè red / 英国 Yīngguó	s sh / guo r	我喜欢/不喜欢 我是英国人	Colours meanings 国 meaning	to be able to say what colours we like to be able to say what country we're from *Complete Spring Assessment (YCT)*
Summer Term 1 Food and drinks	米饭 mi fan 面条 mian tiao 水 shui 牛奶 niunai	-iu -ui -ian -iao	我喜欢吃/喝我不喜欢吃/喝	Traditional food in China	to be able to say what food or drinks we like eating or drinking
Summer Term 2 Revision & End of Year Assessment (Speaking)	All vocabulary	To answer with the correct Pinyin and tones	All structures	The Dragon boat Festival	To be able to complete the Speaking assessment *Speaking assessment*

Year 4 Mandarin Scheme of Work

Term	Vocabulary (汉字 / Pinyin)	Phonics	Grammar/ Radicals	Culture	Learning Objective
Autumn Term 1 My Feelings & Dates	高兴 happy 很忙 busy 月 month 日 day	z h -ue ri	今天是 Today is… 我的生日是…	Moon Festival Birthdays in China	To be able to express how we feel and to say the dates
Autumn Term 2 Family & Pets	奶奶 nǎinai grandma / 仓鼠 cang shu 乌龟 wu gui	c s z	只 条 个 口 Measure words for	Respect for elders Pets in China	To be able to say how many brothers/sisters and pets we have *Complete Autumn Assessment (L, R&W)*
Spring Term 1 Colours and physical description (face)	Review colours 眼睛 yanjing 鼻子 bizi 耳朵 erduo	Yan z -i	Use colours to describe someone 蓝眼睛	Chinese opera mask	To be able to describe someone's face and body height
Spring Term 2 Food and drinks	早上 zaoshang 中午 zhongwu 晚上 wanshang More food and drinks	W x q	Subj+time of the day and say what we eat or drink	Meals in China	To be able to say what we eat or drink at a day *Complete Spring Assessment (YCT)*
Summer Term 1 Place in town	学校 Xuexiao 商店 shangdian 饭馆 fanguan	-uan -ian	去+location 在+location	'In my shoes' documentaries	To know familiar places in Mandarin
Summer Term 2 Revision & End of Year Assessment (Speaking)	All vocabulary	To answer with the correct Pinyin and tones	All structures	The Dragon boat Festival	To be able to complete the Speaking assessment *Speaking assessment*

Year 5 Mandarin Scheme of Work

Term	Vocabulary (汉字 / Pinyin)	Phonics	Grammar/ Radicals	Culture	Learning Objective
Autumn Term 1 Me & My family	她/他 ta/ta 漂亮 piaoliang 本 ben 聪明 congming	tone accuracy	Opinions 我喜欢/不喜欢… 因为 yinwei…	Moon Festival	Express opinions with reasons *Complete Autumn Assessment (L, R&W)*
Autumn Term 2 My school & school subjects	学校 xue xiao 学生 xue sheng 男生 nan sheng 女生 nu sheng 同学 tong xue School subjects	-ue x	里 li – in 有 you- there is/are	Primary schools in China Christmas in China	Describe our school and class Express opinions with reasons about subjects
Spring Term 1 Festivals & Dates	春节 Chūnjié 月 yue 日/号 ri/hao	ch j	Dates	Chinese Festivals	To be able to wish good fortune
Spring Term 2 Healthy eating	米饭 mifan 面条 miantiao 饺子 jiaozi 水 shui 牛奶 niu nai 茶 cha 健康 jian kang	Tones	我喜欢 吃/喝 Wo xihuan chi/he 我不喜欢 Wo bu xihuan 因为 yin wei	Youth sports	To be able to say what food and drinks are healthy *Complete Spring Assessment (YCT)*
Summer Term 1 Face and Body Description	Review colours 眼睛 yǎnjing 鼻子 bizi 耳朵 er duo 嘴 zui 个子 gezi 高 gao 瘦 shou	Z -e -ui	No 是 for describing	Healthy eating in China	To be able to describe someone's face and shape
Summer Term 2 Revision YCT level 1	All vocabulary	All phonics	All Grammar	The Dragon boat Festival	To complete the YCT level 1

Year 6 Mandarin Scheme of Work

Term	Vocabulary (汉字 / Pinyin)	Phonics	Grammar/ Radicals	Culture	Learning Objective
Autumn Term 1 Greetings, Feelings & reasons	紧张 jǐnzhāng 心情好 xingqing hao 吃饱了 chibaole	Tones J zh	Polite forms	Social norms 性 xing	To be able to give reason
Autumn Term 2 Dates and animals	我看到 wo kan dao 星期 xingqi 月 yue 日 ri /号 hao	x q	Time order	Chinese symbolic animals	To be able to say what one's saw on what day
Spring Term 1 Where I live and local food/drinks	我来自… Wo zilai 我家在…wojia zai 米饭 mifan 饺子 jiaozi 面条 miantiao 茶 cha 牛奶 niunai 水 shui	zh- z-	我住在 我是 … 人 他是… 人	Traditional food in different parts of China	To be able to say where one live and talk about the local food/drinks
Spring Term 2 Places in town	学校 xuexiao 商店 shangdian 饭店 fandian	Sh x	Place reference	'In my shoes' documentary	To be able to describe what places one has in their town
Summer Term 1 Transport	坐汽车 zuoqiche 公共汽车 gonggongqiche 骑自行车 qi zixing che 走路 zoulu 飞机 feiji	Z j	Use of transport Place	The World's fastest train Different transports in China	Communicate confidently about daily life
Summer Term 2 Review all topics and YCT & Projects	YCT vocabulary list 1 and 2	All phonics	Complex structures	The Dragon boat Festival	Complete YCT level 1 and/or 2