

Writing Weeks

Every term the whole school devotes two weeks to the study of a high quality text by a well-known author. The children become familiar with the story using story-telling and story-mapping, then read it closely to unpick the vocabulary, grammar and punctuation choices the author has made, before finally using it as a model to write their own narratives.

Year 1	Anthony Brown <i>Into The Forest</i> Anthony Brown	Uw! Owles! Moran Woodell	Magical Monks Lydia Monks	Henry & Izzy Julia Donaldson	Nick Sharratt <i>Eye for Eye</i>
Year 2	The Mysteries of Harris Burdick Christina Alabuga	Mercat Mall Emma Gray	Men on the Moon Simon Bartram	The Tiger Who Came to Tea Judith Kerr	The Diary of a Killer Cat, Alice Faye
Year 3	The Mysteries of Harris Burdick Christina Alabuga	Wow! Home Liz Hutchings	The Iron Man Ted Hughes	Under the Moon and Over the Sea John Agard & Grace Nichols	YOU TELL ME Michael Rosen & Roger McGough
Year 4	The Mysteries of Harris Burdick Christina Alabuga	Leon and the Pieces Between Grahame Baker Smith	Kendalwick Phillia Ralphy	The Wolves in the Walls Neil Gaiman	YOU TELL ME Michael Rosen & Roger McGough
Year 5	The Mysteries of Harris Burdick Christina Alabuga	Holes Louis Sachar	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tuiene Kate Eccomille	The London Eye Mystery, Sophie David	Vladik Paw Sj' Sord
Year 6	The Mysteries of Harris Burdick Christina Alabuga	The Other Side of The Truth Beverly Nalbor	Spellig David Armond	The Street Child Bettie Dobehy	Locomotion Jacqueline Woodson

How to Support Your Child

There are lots of ways to support your child at home. Here are a few ideas:

- The basis for good writing is good talk. Encourage children to talk at length, in full sentences, about things they have done or places they have visited.
- Let your children see you as a model writer. Show them how you write shopping lists, postcards, maybe even a poem or short story.
- Encourage your children to write for a purpose, for example, get them to write a list of things they need to take on holiday.
- Play word games like 'I Spy', Boggle, Scrabble and Hangman to build their vocabulary and improve their spelling.
- After making something (for example, a cake), encourage children to write instructions for a friends.
- Praise your child's writing! It's not easy to get everything right as they're learning so pick out something that they have done well.



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Writing Information



Good Writing

The new National Curriculum identifies two main dimensions to writing that children need to master in order to become effective writers. Firstly, the skills of transcription, which include the ability to spell confidently and to have a fast, fluent handwriting style.

Secondly, the skills of composition, which include being able to think of, organise, articulate clearly and edit ideas. Across all our schools, we ensure that children are given the opportunity to practice and develop these two areas across the curriculum.

Spelling



Spelling is taught as part of our Success for All and our Read Write Inc. literacy programmes, which gives the children an excellent grounding in phonics, before moving them on to looking at spelling patterns and word families. From the beginning, children are taught the difference between common exception words (those words that cannot be spelt using phonics, e.g. the, was) and phonetic words (that can be 'sounded out'). In addition, spelling homework made up of topic-related and age-appropriate vocabulary, is regularly sent home and tested in class.

Handwriting

Cursive handwriting is taught right from Reception so that children are familiar with the cursive formation of letters as soon as they start learning to write. Dedicated handwriting slots are timetabled for teachers from Year 1 to Year 6 to teach joined handwriting and children are encouraged to develop their own, joined style in all other subjects.

Aa Bb Cc

Grammar

The new National Curriculum has set out clear guidelines for the teaching of grammar. Each year group is required to learn a different set of grammatical rules and to be able to describe them using the correct terminology. For example, children in Year 2 will learn that describing words are called adjectives. We believe that grammar is learnt best when it is learnt in a real context. For this reason, we teach grammar as part of every writing session so that children can directly apply it in their writing.



Composition

In order to write effectively, children need to develop the skills of thinking through and planning their ideas. Further down the school, this is done through talk partners. As the children get older they are taught how to plan and draft their writing by making notes and using planning frames.



Our Approach

Across all our schools, we believe that children write best when they are given the chance to read widely - "Good readers make good writers". By reading and analysing high quality texts, children gain a better understanding of how authors construct their writing and can use them as a model for their own writing. We also believe that children are best able to write when they have been given the chance to talk and act out their ideas. For this reason, we incorporate 'book talk' (the in-depth discussion of how books are written) and drama into our teaching.

