



Writing



What are we learning to do? 'A writer is a world trapped in a person' Victor Hugo

In the Early Years, we work to help children develop a love of mark making. They are then taught how to use a pen, hold it appropriately and sit or stand ready to write well. We encourage and teach children to prepare themselves for a writing session, clearing our desks and warming up our fingers.

We learn about the process of writing; from having a thought, clarifying it verbally out loud and then the action involved in getting the idea to paper. We teach children how to improve their handwriting, this ensures that their ideas are legible and that they can capture and process them at a steady speed. We study classic and current, high quality texts as a model of excellent writing, before attempting our own pieces. We help children to improve their writing, to make it an interesting and exciting read by extending their vocabulary. We teach children to craft their emotions and thoughts into words, or as William Wordsworth says to 'fill your paper with the breathing of your heart'.

What skills are we learning to use?

Our excellent Cornerstones curriculum and topic activities work to inspire a lot of our writing.

We dissected Owl Pellets last term.

Have you ever met a child who wouldn't want to write about that?

Talk for Writing

"Children will implicitly internalise language patterns and reuse them in their writing, if they read a lot, or read repetitively, or are read a regular bedtime story. It is probably a matter of quantity." Pie Corbett.

In other words, we take a high quality text, The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson for example. We learn it off by heart. We make up actions for it, and we rehearse until we can re-enact the whole text. We then know a whole story; what it sounds like, what it includes, how it begins, who the characters are. We have everything we need to write our own story. Only we call it the Hufflelo or the Chuffalo and the story begins to change. We change one thing, or two things or several things or the characters and the setting. But we know the stories structure so well, so we can use it to build our own.

Links with SPAG

Our SPAG lessons teach us the mechanics of the English language. We look for the application of these skills within our topic books.

What can we do at home to help?

Read, read and read some more. Our weekly spellings are quite important. There are lots of rhymes online that can help you and your child remember new spellings. Our topic homework works to help your child engage in learning at school. They win squad points and for their squad for every piece of homework they bring in.

When do we learn? English lessons are held every day in every class. These can include Oracy lessons too. We expect each class to run an Extended writing session once per week. The expectations for this are on the left. This session works to build children's writing stamina. We understand that

Year	Amount of work
1/2	Up to 1 page.
3/4	2-3 pages
5/6	3-4 pages

children need to develop a knowledge base for what they will be writing, will need to understand and use the structural features of the text type and will need to be improving the quality of their writing by

extending their knowledge of vocabulary.

What is there in class to help me?

Each classroom has a literacy working wall, which provides a visual reminder of what has been taught during the weeks lessons. Each child has a Topic book. This book allows our exciting curriculum to make links with Literacy lessons broadening children's learning and allowing them to apply their English skills through every other subject.

What if I need extra support? Every class has at least one teaching assistant. These second teachers are on hand to support groups of children who need a little extra guidance or support.

How do we learn? Writing is painting with words. We enable creativity whilst becoming academic. We learn writing skills through a variety of kinaesthetic activities. From reading and watching films to actions and drama with Helicopter. We re-visit, we edit and we learn the processes of writing. We teach children to write for a variety of different purposes. We prepare children for the future by teaching embedded learning behaviours, teaching children to remain resilient, positive, aspirational and exploratory. We do not know exactly what the future holds for writing, but we know that with these skills our children will be able to choose from a host of exceptional writing skills to be able form a happy and fore filling lives for themselves.

How does my teacher check my progress?

Every day your teacher marks your child's book, and highlights something in purple that shows they are meeting the learning objective. We also highlight something in green. This is an area that your child could develop. Your child is asked to respond and correct every green highlight, every day. Once a week your child's work is marked in depth. Your teacher will read every word and make a green and purple comment to support your child's next steps.