

The English National Curriculum

The Year 1 Learner

READING

Word reading

By the end of Year 1, children will have built on the reading skills developed in the Early Years Foundation Stage. They will have consolidated their knowledge of single letters, groups of letters and words and further developed their knowledge of sounds (phonics), becoming more confident when blending sounds in order to read unfamiliar words. They will be developing a range of reading strategies that will help them to tackle new words with greater independence and confidence. Children will have a better understanding of the building blocks of both reading and writing and will begin to make links between these. They will be encouraged to develop a love of reading and be given opportunities to broaden their reading experiences. Opportunities will be provided for reading in different contexts, such as reading aloud individually, following the reading of others, joining in when reading predictable phrases and rhymes and reading chorally in larger groups or as a whole class. The children read a range of fiction and non-fiction books from various different reading schemes, as well as non-scheme books. We use 'Letters and Sounds' as the basis of our phonics teaching.

Vocabulary

As they progress through the year, children will develop a wider vocabulary linked to their everyday experiences and specific topics they study. Vocabulary will also be widened through the speaking and listening opportunities they will be given and through the stories and poems they hear.

Comprehension

Children will be encouraged to talk about their reading and about their enjoyment of books. They will be given opportunities to make links between their reading and their own experiences. When talking about books, they will be able to pick out titles and specific words and explain the main events within texts. Discussion work will include the sharing of thoughts and ideas, forming predictions and summarising.

WRITING

Spelling

Children will be taught to name each letter of the alphabet and to use the letter names in order to spell words aloud. They will learn to spell the days of the week and simple well known words from memory. Simple spelling rules will be introduced to children. The effect of adding –s and –es to nouns will be studied and the prefix –un and suffixes –ing, –ed, –er and –est will also be introduced and consolidated.

Handwriting

Children will build on their existing writing skills by further developing good handwriting habits that will help them to write correctly formed letters and numbers that start and finish in the right places. They will begin to distinguish between upper and lower case letters and begin to use these correctly more frequently in their everyday writing. They will also begin to make links between letters that have similar patterns.

Composition

The composition elements of writing will be developed through a range of reading, speaking and listening activities. Prior to writing tasks, children will be given opportunities to discuss and extend their ideas, creating a plan of what they would like to write. Children are encouraged to rehearse their ideas by saying them out loud and then recording them on the page. On completion, they will be able to read their writing aloud to others and to talk about their successes.

Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

Throughout Year 1, children will be taught about the importance of leaving spaces between their written words. They will use the word 'and' to join clauses within their sentences, adding more detail to their writing. Capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks will be introduced and/or consolidated. Children will be introduced to nouns, verbs and adjectives and will use these types of words to build clauses and sentences.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

The development of speaking and listening skills is an essential and integral part of all areas of the Year 1 curriculum. Children are expected to build on their existing speaking and listening skills through their everyday contact with a range of adults and peers. They will be taught to listen carefully and respond thoughtfully to others.