

The English National Curriculum

The Year 3 Learner

READING

Word reading

By the end of Year 3, children will have developed a range of word reading strategies that they will be able to use independently and confidently. When reading new and familiar words, they will apply their growing knowledge of root words. Children will continue to develop their vocabulary so that they understand the meaning of new words they meet.

Comprehension

During Year 3, greater emphasis will be placed on the teaching and learning of comprehension skills. Children read a wider range of books, identifying main themes and conventions. They will study the structure of texts and begin to identify the purposes of different reading materials. Through comparing and contrasting, drawing inferences and making predictions, children will develop a deeper understanding of what they have read and be able to demonstrate their understanding through discussion work and various writing opportunities. By now, children will have experienced a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Extended book studies will have increased their love of reading and the introduction of new material will inspire them to read books they might not otherwise try.

WRITING

Spelling

Children will have consolidated their knowledge of phonics for spelling during their first term in Year 3. They will build on previous work by learning how to spell a range of prefixes and suffixes and will have developed their understanding of how these can be added to root words. They will learn to spell homophones and words from the relevant vocabulary list specified in the national curriculum. Children will continue to learn how to spell new words correctly and edit their work to identify when they have misspelt words in their own writing. They will be taught how to use the first two or three letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary.

Handwriting

Children will learn how to make their handwriting both legible and stylish. Letters will be spaced properly, ascending and descending letters will be formed with greater control and accuracy and children will be expected to join most letters in everyday writing.

Composition

Children will plan and compose their writing with greater confidence and independence. A range of reading materials and visual resources will be used to stimulate initial ideas for writing, and opportunities to write for real and imagined purposes and audiences will be provided through different curriculum areas. Children will begin to use paragraphs, headings and sub-headings to organise their writing and write in a wider range of genres. Children will learn the importance of reading their own writing in order to make judgements about its effectiveness, suggesting how their writing could be improved and acting on their suggestions with increasing independence.

Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

During Year 3, children will develop their understanding of sentence construction. They will widen the range of conjunctions they use (such as 'when', 'although' and 'if') to extend the sentences they write in order to give the reader more information. They will use adverbs and adjectives to include more detailed description in their writing, begin to punctuate direct speech and use apostrophes for possession and contractions.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Children will become more confident when addressing different audiences and when speaking in different situations. They will expand their vocabulary, including more complex subject specific words. By the end of Year 3, they will confidently participate in and lead discussions.