

The English National Curriculum

The Year 6 Learner

READING

Word reading

By the end of Year 6, children will read accurately and fluently, applying their developing knowledge of words, reading skills and experiences. They will continue to build on their existing vocabulary and pronunciation, actively seeking out the meaning of new and unfamiliar words independently. Although almost all children will not require further direct teaching of word reading skills at this stage, they will continue to be supported when making book choices and in managing and recording their reading.

Comprehension

During Year 6, children will be encouraged to maintain positive attitudes to reading and to develop their understanding of a range of more complex types of text. Through reading a wide range of fiction and non-fiction materials, children will be taught to recognise key themes and issues, to consider different viewpoints and to recognise the author's intentions and how authors communicate with the reader. They will develop their knowledge of the various conventions of different types of writing and will be taught to use a range of technical terms so that they can discuss the use of language, style and effect. Children will be taught to retrieve information and will have opportunities to develop research skills which will help prepare them for many aspects of work in Year 7. Children will be given a wide range of opportunities to respond to their reading, for instance through discussions, explanations and verbal presentations.

WRITING

Spelling

Children will consolidate their spelling knowledge by revising spelling rules and patterns studied in previous years. They will further develop their understanding of the history of words and their knowledge of the relationships between words. Children will investigate words and to develop their own strategies to help them to remember how to spell words correctly. They will quickly recognise and correct misspelt words in their writing.

Handwriting

Children will continue to practise handwriting so that they are able to write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed. They will continue to be encouraged to take pride in their presentation across all subjects and will be given opportunities to make decisions about the best presentational and organisational features for the particular task at hand.

Composition

Children will plan their writing independently, noting and organising their ideas. They will select appropriate grammar and vocabulary, and use paragraphs to organise their writing. Their narrative writing will include choose character and setting descriptions, action and dialogue to create the desired atmosphere. In non-fiction they will use appropriate organisational presentational and organisational features to help guide the reader. Children will by now have preferred methods for improving their own writing, some choosing to edit as they write whilst others preferring to edit after finishing their first draft.

Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

By the end of Year 6, children will confidently use a range of grammatical terminology with accuracy when discussing their reading and writing. They will use a wide range of punctuation marks in their everyday writing and recognise how precise vocabulary can be used to make the meaning of their writing clear for the reader. Children will further develop their understanding of verb tenses and active and passive sentences. They will be taught how to use cohesive devices to link paragraphs through vocabulary choices and how to edit their work so that it is grammatically correct throughout and correctly punctuated.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Children will recognise the differences between Standard English and non-Standard English and know when it is appropriate for these to be used in speaking and in writing. They will be taught to understand and use the conventions for discussion and debate, and to rehearse, refine and perform readings, presentations and dramatic roles. Their speaking and listening work will help them to be confident speakers who are able to speak for a variety of purposes and to a range of audiences. They will listen and, respond thoughtfully to others.