



Upper Key Stage 2 English

By the beginning of year 5, learners will be able to read aloud a wider range of poetry and books written at an age-appropriate interest level with accuracy and at a reasonable speaking pace. Most learners will be able to read effortlessly and work out how to pronounce unfamiliar words with ease. The teaching of reading in upper key stage two, therefore focuses on using appropriate intonation, summarising and the development of reading a wide variety of texts to support learners in developing a love of reading both in and out of school.

During years 5 and 6, pupils' enjoyment and understanding of language is paramount and this is achieved through teaching using a book based approach, where all learning in English is crafted from a quality text. Learners are taught to broaden their vocabulary and experiment with a wide variety of language choices. They draw on ideas from a wide variety of texts, including classical literature, poetry and stories, to help them in this quest. Learning focusses upon enhancing the effectiveness of writing as well as competencies in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

By the end of year 6, it is expected that learners' reading and writing should be sufficiently fluent and effortless for them to manage the general demands of the curriculum in year 7, across all subjects and not just in English.

Learners are given frequent opportunities to discuss what they are learning and to develop their wider skills in spoken language. In years 5 and 6, pupils' confidence, enjoyment and mastery of language is extended through public speaking, performance and debate.

How can I support my child in English?

1. Read, Read, Read and Read some more – anything! Challenge them to read longer and more complex words as you meet them.
2. Practise the year 5/6 spellings regularly (available [here](#)).
3. Give children lots of opportunities to write for different purposes: extended letters, encourage them to start a journal, e-mails etc.
4. Talk about what children are learning about in class – and anything else you want to discuss! The news, their thoughts on the world, what would they do if they were Prime Minister etc.



Year 5 and 6 English Overview

Spoken Language (Years 1-6)

Pupils should be taught to:

- listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- use relevant strategies to build their vocabulary
- articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings
- maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments
- use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas
- speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English
- participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s)
- consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others
- select and use appropriate registers for effective communication.

Reading – Word Recognition

Pupils should be taught to:

- apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (morphology and etymology), as listed in [English Appendix 1](#), both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words that they meet.

Reading - Comprehension

Pupils should be taught to:

- maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by:
 - continuing to read and discuss an increasingly wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
 - reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
 - increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and books from other cultures and traditions
 - recommending books that they have read to their peers, giving reasons for their choices
 - identifying and discussing themes and conventions in and across a wide range of writing
 - making comparisons within and across books
 - learning a wider range of poetry by heart
 - preparing poems and plays to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone and volume so that the meaning is clear to an audience
- understand what they read by:
 - checking that the book makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and exploring the meaning of words in context
 - asking questions to improve their understanding
 - drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
 - predicting what might happen from details stated and implied
 - summarising the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, identifying key details that support the main ideas
 - identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning
 - discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader
 - distinguish between statements of fact and opinion
 - retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction
 - participate in discussions about books that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, building on their own and others' ideas and challenging views courteously
 - explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates, maintaining a focus on the topic and using notes where necessary
 - provide reasoned justifications for their views.



Writing - Transcription	Writing - Handwriting	Writing – Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation	Writing - Composition
<p>Spelling (see English Appendix 1) Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ use further prefixes and suffixes and understand the guidance for adding them ▪ spell some words with ‘silent’ letters [for example, knight, psalm, solemn] ▪ continue to distinguish between homophones and other words which are often confused ▪ use knowledge of morphology and etymology in spelling and understand that the spelling of some words needs to be learnt specifically, as listed in English Appendix 1 ▪ use dictionaries to check the spelling and meaning of words ▪ use the first three or four letters of a word to check spelling, meaning or both of these in a dictionary ▪ use a thesaurus. 	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by: • choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific little ▪ choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task. 	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop their understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 by: ▪ recognising vocabulary and structures that are appropriate for formal speech and writing, including subjunctive forms ▪ using passive verbs to affect the presentation of information in a sentence ▪ using the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause ▪ using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely ▪ using modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility ▪ using relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that or with an implied (i.e. omitted) relative pronoun ▪ learning the grammar for years 5 and 6 in English Appendix 2 ▪ indicate grammatical and other features by: ▪ using commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity in writing ▪ using hyphens to avoid ambiguity ▪ using brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis ▪ using semi-colons, colons or dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses ▪ using a colon to introduce a list ▪ punctuating bullet points consistently ▪ use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 accurately and appropriately in discussing their writing and reading. 	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ plan their writing by: ▪ identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own ▪ noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary ▪ in writing narratives, considering how authors have developed characters and settings in what pupils have read, listened to or seen performed ▪ draft and write by: ▪ selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning ▪ in narratives, describing settings, characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action ▪ précising longer passages ▪ using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs ▪ using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader [for example, headings, bullet points, underlining] ▪ evaluate and edit by: ▪ assessing the effectiveness of their own and others’ writing ▪ proposing changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning ▪ ensuring the consistent and correct use of tense throughout a piece of writing ▪ ensuring correct subject and verb agreement when using singular and plural, distinguishing between the language of speech and writing and choosing the appropriate register ▪ proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors ▪ perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume, and movement so that meaning is clear.



Recommended Reading Lists

Year 5

Water Wings	Morris Gleitzman
Blabbermouth	Morris Gleitzman
Belly Flop	Morris Gleitzman
The Diddakoi	Rumer Godden
Stormbreaker	Anthony Horowitz
Walter and Me	Michael Morpurgo
Friend or Foe	Michael Morpurgo
Mister Monday	Garth Nix
Aquila	Andrew Norris
Harry and the Wrinklies	Alan Temperley
The Story of Tracy Beaker	Jacqueline Wilson
Double Act	Jacqueline Wilson
Northern Lights	Philip Pullman
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens
Dragon Rider	Cornelia Funke
Journey To Jo'burg	Beverly Naidoo
Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotson
The Owl Service	Alan Garner
Pig Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman
Tom's Midnight Garden	Philippa Pearce
Watership Down	Richard Adams
The Wizard of Earthsea	Ursula K Le Guin
Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson-Burnett
Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer
The Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame
Anne of Green Gables	L M Montgomery
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell
Holes	Louis Sachar
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom	Louis Sachar
Vicky Angel	Jacqueline Wilson
The Other Side of Truth	Beverley Naidoo
Harry Potter series	J K Rowling



Year 6

Carrie's War	Nina Bawden
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	Judith Kerr
Forgotten Voices of the Second World War	Max Arthur
The Diamond of Drury Lane	Julia Golding
Framed	Frank Cottrell Boyce
Homecoming	Cynthia Voigt
Noughts and Crosses	Malorie Blackman
Knife Edge	Malorie Blackman
Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾	Sue Townsend
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson
Mortal Engines	Philip Reeve
Clockwork	Philip Pullman
Dragon Keeper	Carole Wilkinson
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark Haddon
Peter Pan	J M Barrie
Wizard of Oz	F Baum
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens
Jungle Book	Rudyard Kipling
The Railway Children	E Nesbit
The Borrowers	M Norton
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain
Alex Rider series	Anthony Horowitz
My Story series	Various authors
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl	Ed. Otto H Frank
Boy Overboard	Morris Gleitzman
Sabriel	Garth Nix