



## Lower Key Stage 2 English

By the beginning of year 3, it is expected that most learners will be able to read age-appropriate texts, drawing on skills learnt in Key Stage 1 to decode unfamiliar words. Therefore the reading focus during years 3 and 4 is to develop the breadth and depth of reading to ensure that children become independent, fluent and enthusiastic readers. All of our English teaching is derived from a central high-quality text. Through these books children will develop an understanding and enjoyment of stories, poetry, plays and non-fiction, and learn to read fluently. In addition to this learners are learning how to justify their views about what they have read and become increasingly independent readers.

During Years 3 and 4 learners will develop their writing skills, and become able to write down their ideas with increasing accuracy and length, with good sentence punctuation. Teaching will build on the foundations which children have learnt in key stage 1 as they increase both the range and grammatical accuracy of their written work. Pupils will learn to love language, experimenting with new words and phrases and using language for different purposes through a variety of writing tasks. Spelling focusses on the addition of prefixes and suffixes to root words, and children are taught to look for the common spelling patterns as well as the common exception words. Handwriting is very important during years 3 and 4, as it is where many learners develop the handwriting style which will last them into adulthood, and correct letter formation and joining techniques are taught throughout lower key stage 2.

### *How can I support my child in English?*

1. Read, Read, Read and Read some more – anything! Newspapers, magazines, books, football programmes, catalogues, teletext – really anything!
2. Practise spellings regularly – not just the ones sent home in spelling lists; but also the common exception words.
3. Give children lots of opportunities to write for different purposes: letters, postcards, a diary, birthday cards, 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 3 and 4 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 (etymology and morphology) as listed in [English Appendix 1](#), both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet
- read further exception words, noting the unusual correspondences between spelling and sound, and where these occur in the word.

#### Reading - Comprehension

Pupils should be taught to:

- develop positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by:
- listening to and discussing a 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
- using dictionaries to check the meaning of words that they have read
- increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally
- identifying themes and conventions in a wide range of books preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action
- discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination
- recognising some different forms of poetry [for example, free verse, narrative poetry]
- understand what they read, in books they can read independently, by:
- checking that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and explaining the meaning of words in context
- asking questions to improve their understanding of a text
- 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
- identifying main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarising these
- identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning
- retrieve and record information from non-fiction
- participate in discussion about both books that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say.



Writing - Transcription	Writing - Handwriting	Writing – Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation	Writing - Composition
<p><b>Spelling (see English Appendix 1)</b> Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them (English Appendix 1)</li> <li>▪ spell further homophones</li> <li>▪ spell words that are often misspelt (English Appendix 1)</li> <li>▪ place the possessive apostrophe accurately in words with regular plurals [for example, girls', boys'] and in words with irregular plurals [for example, children's]</li> <li>▪ use the first two or three letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary</li> <li>▪ write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far.</li> </ul>	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined</li> <li>▪ increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch].</li> </ul>	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ develop their understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 by:</li> <li>▪ extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including when, if, because, although</li> <li>▪ using the present perfect form of verbs in contrast to the past tense</li> <li>▪ choosing nouns or pronouns appropriately for clarity and cohesion and to avoid repetition</li> <li>▪ using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause</li> <li>▪ using fronted adverbials</li> <li>▪ learning the grammar for years 3 and 4 in English Appendix 2</li> <li>▪ indicate grammatical and other features by:</li> <li>▪ using commas after fronted adverbials</li> <li>▪ indicating possession by using the possessive apostrophe with plural nouns</li> <li>▪ using and punctuating direct speech</li> <li>▪ use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 accurately and appropriately when discussing their writing and reading.</li> </ul>	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ plan their writing by:</li> <li>▪ discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar</li> <li>▪ discussing and recording ideas</li> <li>▪ draft and write by:</li> <li>▪ composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures (English Appendix 2)</li> <li>▪ organising paragraphs around a theme</li> <li>▪ in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot</li> <li>▪ in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices [for example, headings and sub-headings]</li> <li>▪ evaluate and edit by:</li> <li>▪ assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements</li> <li>▪ proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences</li> <li>▪ proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors</li> <li>▪ read aloud their own writing, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.</li> </ul>



## Recommended Reading Lists

### Year 3

Cool	Michael Morpurgo
The Butterfly Lion	Michael Morpurgo
Kensuke's Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo
Billy the Kid	Michael Morpurgo
The Twits	Roald Dahl
Charlie and Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl
Matilda	Roald Dahl
Danny The Champion of the World	Roald Dahl
James and the Giant Peach	Roald Dahl
Fantastic Mr Fox	Roald Dahl
The BFG	Roald Dahl
The Sheep Pig	Dick King-Smith
Bill's New Frock	Anne Fine
The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog	Jeremy Strong
Return of the Hundred Mile an Hour Dog	Jeremy Strong
The Naughtiest Girl in the School	Enid Blyton
Secret Seven series	Enid Blyton
Famous Five series	Enid Blyton
Animal Ark series	Lucy Daniels
Horrid Henry series	Francesca Henry's
Charlotte's Web	E B White
Flat Stanley	Jeff Brown
Fungus the Bogeyman	Raymond Briggs
Mystery Winklesea	Helen Cresswell
The Indian in the Cupboard	Lynne Reid Banks
Mr Majeika	Humphrey Carpenter
Please Mrs Butler	Allan Ahlberg
The Sam Pig Story Book	Alison Uttley
Railway Cat	Phyllis Arkle
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	J K Rowling



## Year 4

A Caribbean Dozen	John Agard & Grace Nicholls
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	John Steptoe
Beowulf	Kevin Crossley-Holland
The Firework-Maker's Daughter	Philip Pullman
The Dragon's Child	Jenny Nimmo
The Ghost Blades	Anthony Masters
Sara, Plain and Tall	Patricia MacLachlan
Smart Girls	Robert Leeson
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky	Susan Jeffers & Chief Seattle
Robi Dobi	Madhur Jaffrey
The Reluctant Dragon	Kenneth Grahame
Flow	Pippa Goodhart
Dragon Poems	John Foster & Korky Paul
The Crazy Shoe Shuffle	Gillian Cross
The Sea Piper	Helen Cresswell
The Chocolate Touch	Patrick Skene Catling
Spacebaby	Henrietta Branford
Gregory Cool	Caroline Binch
A Pot of Gold	Jill Bennett
Fog Hounds Wind Cat Sea Mice	Joan Aiken
The Clothes Horse	Allan Ahlberg
It Was A Dark and Stormy Night	Allan Ahlberg
The Dancing Bear	Michael Morpurgo
The Demon Headmaster	Gillian Cross
Dog So Small	Phillipa Pearce
Emil and the Detectives	Erich Kastner
The Iron Man	Ted Hughes
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe	C S Lewis
Little House on the Prairie	Laura Ingalls Wilder
Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh	Robert C O'Brien
Stig of the Dump	Clive King
Swallows and Amazons	Arthur Ransome
A Child's Garden of Verse	Robert Louis Stevenson
Greek Myths for Young Children	Marcia Williams
The Orchard Book of Creation Stories	Margaret Mayo & Louise Brierley