



The Year 1 Learner

Approach

In English lessons, children are taught speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through studying a variety of writing styles (genres). Teachers follow the Talk for Writing approach which means that children will firstly be taught to read and understand the text using high quality examples then practise the skills of the style of writing, including grammar (imitation) and then apply it into their own writing (invention).

The Primary National Curriculum statements will be taught through the modules below:

Y1 English Coverage

The Year 1 English curriculum consists of the following modules:

Autumn

- Stories with predictable phrasing; write simple sentences using patterned language labels, lists and captions and write labels and sentences
- Recounts; write a first person recount
- Poetry vocabulary; read, write and perform
- Poetry with rhyming couplets; recite familiar poems

Spring

- Stories reflecting children's own experience; retell events based on personal experience
- Report; write a non-chronological report Instructions; write for a simple recipe
- Poetry vocabulary; read, write and perform
- Poetry with rhyming couplets; recite familiar poems

Summer

- Traditional tale; retelling of a traditional tale
- Report; write a non-chronological report
- Explanations; draw pictures for a simple process written in simple sentences
- Poetry vocabulary; read, write and perform
- Poetry appreciation; look at one poet and become familiar with their poems

Key poets/authors your children will encounter are:

- ❖ Jill Murphy
- ❖ Helen Ward
- ❖ Julia Donaldson
- ❖ Quentin Blake
- ❖ Alfred Noyes

Recommended reading list (a variety is best):

- ❖ Hairy Maclary - Lynley Dodd
- ❖ Charlie and Lola - Lauren Child
- ❖ Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- ❖ The Three Little Pigs
- ❖ The Gigantic Turnip - Aleksei Tolstoy
- ❖ The Jolly Postman - Allan Ahlberg
- ❖ Topic Books, e.g. Old Toys, Homes in the Past
- ❖ Traditional Nursery Rhymes
- ❖ Traditional Fairy Stories
- ❖ The Little Red Hen - Byron Barton
- ❖ Stone Soup - Marcia Brown

Curriculum Content

Speaking and Listening

The children will become more familiar with and confident in using language in a greater variety of situations. They will, for example:

- Listen to and discuss a wide range of books and poems
- Recognise and join in with predictable phrases
- Learn some rhymes and poems to recite by heart
- Discuss the meaning of words and extend vocabulary
- Join in with discussions and explain their understanding
- Change their speaking when taking on a role of a character during play

Reading

This part of the curriculum is broken down into 'word reading' and 'comprehension'.

In Year 1, pupils continue to learn to read words using phonics as well as learning to recognise words that cannot easily be sounded out e.g. *once*. For further information regarding phonics and school reading scheme refer to RWI.

As well as being able to read words, children need to understand what they read and develop a life-long love of reading. They will learn to do this through carefully structured activities using a wide range of high-quality books. They are encouraged to:

- Make links between their own experiences and the story
- Check that they understand what they are reading
- Talk about the title and the main events
- Predict what might happen before they read it
- Join in with predictable phrases

We are able to provide you with lists of age appropriate texts to support the learning.

Writing

In Year 1 children develop their writing through the following areas:

Spelling:

- Spell words using phonics
- Learn commonly used whole words that are difficult to sound out
- Spell the days of the week
- Begin to look at patterns and rules

Handwriting:

- Hold a pencil correctly
- Form letters and digits correctly and confidently
- Leave spaces between words

Composition:

- Speak in whole sentences
- Write sequences of sentences
- Re-read and check for sense
- Develop a wide vocabulary
- Use capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks
- Join sentences with 'and'

For further information, please refer to [Primary National Curriculum document](#)