



The Year 4 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.

Y4 English Coverage

The Year 4 English curriculum consists of the following modules.

Autumn

- Traditional tale; retelling of a traditional tale
- Explanation; create and use a flowchart
- Recount; write in first person based on a historical event
- Poetry vocabulary; read, write and perform
- Calligrams; write own calligram

Spring

- Stories with recurring literary language; use a familiar story to write a new story
- Report; sort and categorise information
- Poetry vocabulary; read, write and perform
- Calligrams; write own calligram

Summer

- Traditional tales (myths); write creation myth
- Instructions; write fiction-based instructions, including diagrams
- Explanations; produce a flowchart
- Poetry vocabulary; read, write and perform
- Poetry appreciation; look at one poet and become familiar with their poems and recite

Key poets/authors your children will encounter are:

- ❖ David Walliams
- ❖ John Steptoe
- ❖ Phillip Pullman
- ❖ Marcia Williams
- ❖ Dick King Smith
- ❖ Lewis Carroll
- ❖ Michael Rosen

Recommended reading list (a variety is best):

- ❖ The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - C S Lewis
- ❖ The Dream Master - Theresa Breslin
- ❖ Aquila (science-fiction) - Andrew Norriss
- ❖ The Widow's Broom - Chris Van Allsburg
- ❖ Dragon's Child - Jenny Nimmo
- ❖ Seth and the Strangers - Jenny Nimmo
- ❖ The Orchard Book of Greek Myths, Geraldine McCaughrean
- ❖ Greek Myths - Marcia Williams
- ❖ Blackberry Blue and other fairy tales - Jamila Gavin
- ❖ The Boy and the Cloth of Dreams - Jenny Koralek
- ❖ East O the Sun and West O the Moon - PJ Lynch

Curriculum Content

Speaking and Listening

Children will be taught to discuss their learning and to develop speaking skills. They will become more familiar with and confident in, using language in a variety of situations, for a range of audiences and purposes. They will, for example

- Develop their understanding of a subject through discussions, learning to give their opinions and listen to other view points
- Speak clearly and in different ways for drama, formal presentations and debate.

Reading

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

In word reading children will be taught to read and understand the meaning of new words using the skills they have learned previously and building on learning in year 3. Children will develop the fluency and stamina to read longer texts and the focus for the Year 4 learner is comprehension. Children will be taught key skills to enable them to read, understand and enjoy a wide range of books. They will, for example:

- Summarise the main ideas of a text
- Justify their opinion of particular characters
- Discuss ideas that are not obviously described in a text e.g. 'explain why the character may have felt like this'
- Note how the author chooses language to create a mood or atmosphere
- Identify the structures or features of particular non-fiction texts

We are able to provide you with lists of age appropriate texts to support the learning - please refer to this page on the internet (or click the link if you are reading this electronically)
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/childrens-books-8-12-years>

Writing

Writing is developed through teaching the following:

Spelling: Children should learn to spell new words correctly and have opportunities to practise spelling skills. They will be taught spelling patterns and conventions, building on the spellings taught in Year 3. They will continue to practise and use the words included in Appendix 1 of the National Curriculum for years 3 & 4.

Handwriting: This will continue to be taught, with the aim of increasing children's consistency and fluency throughout their independent writing.

Composition (structure): This includes vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. To develop their composition skills, the children will be taught to

- Plan, draft, compose, edit and evaluate their writing
- Organise their writing into clear paragraphs
- Use an increasing range of sentence structures
- Expand sentences by adding detail
- Write for a range of purposes and audiences as part of their work across the curriculum.

Grammar will be taught throughout the writing process and teachers will follow the terms and concepts of Appendix 2 of the National Curriculum.

For further information, please refer to [Primary National Curriculum document](#) or click the link if you are reading this electronically.