

Primary Curriculum for Literacy

From September 2014 a new curriculum has been introduced for Key Stages One and Two; as well as what we are expected to teach, the way it is taught has also changed.

The Aims of the New Literacy Curriculum

"The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment."

Quote taken from page 4 of the National Curriculum.

Literacy is now broken down into 4 areas, and these are:

1. Spoken language

There is now a higher emphasis on how children talk and on using words in the correct context as well as conveying ideas confidently and clearly, using Standard English. The quality and variety of language that pupils hear and speak are crucial for developing their vocabulary and grammar and their understanding for reading and writing. Children now need to have a wider vocabulary that incorporates understanding as well as skill at selecting the appropriate word. They also need to be able to communicate clearly and confidently in pairs, small groups and to the whole class. A greater opportunity to use their language in front of others is now a vital skill in both key stages.

2. Reading

Reading is now taught through phonics in Key stage One. A greater focus is on the fluency of children when they read and by the start of Year 3 – all children should be secure in their phonics knowledge.

Reading is now broken down into two areas: word reading which is all about pronunciation and recognition of words, letters, patterns, blends etc. and comprehension which is all about their understanding and their ability to explain their thoughts and ideas orally and through written responses.

Reading for pleasure is a key skill and we will be encouraging and guiding children to select from a wider range of genres and authors for their home reading book. All classes will have a class novel and the teacher will read to the class, modelling good practice. Reading at home is important so we are monitoring this through reading records and we need your support in encouraging your child to read at home with you or discuss the book they are reading. Book corner areas are a key focus in all classrooms and we will be using the local library to support us.

One key change is the higher emphasis on poetry and children will be expected to recite poetry and be able to discuss the themes and ideas within the language choices in both key stages.



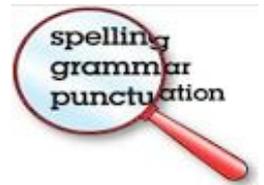


3. Writing

A strong link between reading and writing is the key for successful writers and the new curriculum requires pupils to develop stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spellings, grammar and punctuation. We already use special writing in school, where children are given time to plan and write without interruptions from the teacher and this will continue. The writing that is completed by the children will include: narratives, explanations, descriptions, comparisons, summaries and evaluations: such writing supports them in rehearsing, understanding and consolidating what they have heard or read. Using legible and neat handwriting that is joined from Year 2 onwards is a key focus, so please encourage this with your child at home.

4. Spelling, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

Using the correct grammatical features is important and in preparation for the new curriculum we have already implemented a weekly grammar lesson. Alongside this, children are expected to learn the terms associated with words, such as adjective, pronoun, article, adverb etc and be able to locate them in a text as well as suggest their own. Each class has a grammar-working wall that supports pupils when writing. Children will be given weekly spellings to learn that follow the patterns and rules set out for your child's year group and they will be expected to remember and explain the rules as well as use them correctly when writing.



How will Literacy be taught to my child:

The programmes of study for English are set out year-by-year for key stage 1 and 2. There is now a greater emphasis on deepening the children's understanding rather than moving on at speed through themes and topics. Pupils will be encouraged to seek more knowledge of the structure, content and features of the genre within their current year group rather than looking ahead to the next.