



The Year 1 Writer

Handwriting

In Year 1, children will be completing all written work in pencil. Their pencil grip should be a secure tripod. Over the course of the year the children will be taught upper and lower case letters, taught in a cursive style with lead in and lead out strokes. The children will also have separate handwriting lessons.

Grammar

This area of writing is of very high priority in school, it will therefore be expected that children arrive in Year 1 with a good basic understanding of sentences and how to recognise sentence punctuation in their reading. The children will revise previously learnt skills then the following areas will be taught in Year 1:

- Leaving spaces between words.
- Using the word 'and' to join words and join sentences.
- Beginning to punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark.
- Using a capital letter for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun 'I'.

Phonics and Spelling

In Year 1, it is expected that children already have a good knowledge of the first sounds and use this knowledge to try to spell new words. It is also expected that children will have a good understanding of 'tricky' words. These are common words that cannot be sounded out phonetically e.g 'the'. Phonics lessons are taught in phases. These phases relate to the order in which children should learn their sounds and use them in their own writing. In Year 1 the children will usually be divided into smaller phonics groups so that they can focus on the particular sounds that they need to learn. In Year 1, children will be taught:

- To spell the days of the week.
- To spell words containing the sounds they have been taught.
- The letter names as well as the letter sounds.
- To spell words with the prefix 'un' e.g untidy.

- To add 'ing' and 'ed' to the end of the words.
- To use the plural rule for adding 's' or 'es' e.g cats / foxes.
- That different letters can all make the same sound e.g ai – like rain / ay – like clay / a-e – like maze

Writing in different forms

The children will be assessed on their ability to apply their skills in different types of writing.

Teachers will be asking the children to write in both fiction and non-fiction forms. They may be asked to write simple reports and instructions as well as writing stories and poems. This writing will usually be linked to the children's topic. This will help put the writing in a meaningful context for them.

Writing is a particularly tricky skill because there are so many different aspects to pay attention to. The children need to make sure their writing is meaningful and has purpose; they need to check that it is correctly punctuated as well as paying attention to their handwriting and spelling!

When the children are asked to write for homework, please provide them with a quiet and comfortable space and encourage them to check their work carefully.