



The Year 2 Writer

Handwriting

In Year 2, children will be completing all written work in pencil. Their pencil grip should be a secure tripod. We expect that children will be writing on the line and will have the correct sizes for capital and lower case letters. The children will be taught their letter joins throughout the year both in separate handwriting sessions and whenever a new sound is taught in phonics. By the end of the year we expect children to join most letters accurately.

Grammar

This area of writing is of very high priority in school, it will therefore be expected that children arrive in Year 2 with a good basic understanding of some grammar vocabulary and a good understanding of how to use basic punctuation.

The children will revise previously learnt skills then the following areas will be taught in Year 2:

- How to use both familiar and new punctuation correctly including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contracted forms.
- How to use sentences with different forms e.g: statement, question, exclamation, command
- How to expand noun phrases to describe e.g 'the bright blue butterfly.'
- Use of subordination in a sentence, this means using words like 'when, if, that, or because.'
- Children will also learn the difference between past, present and future tenses.

Phonics and Spelling

In Year 2, it is expected that children already have a good knowledge of phonics 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 'said'.

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 2, the children will usually be divided into smaller phonics groups so that they can focus on

the particular sounds that they need to learn. The children will be tested on their spellings throughout the year. The spellings will include the sound the children have been working on and some tricky words.

In year 2 children will be taught:

- That different letters can all make the same sound e.g ai – like rain / ay – like clay / a-e – like maze
- To spell more words with contracted forms, e.g. can't, don't.
- To add suffixes to spell longer words, e.g. –ment, –ness, –ful and –less.
- That some words have 'silent' letters e.g 'knife' and 'write.'
- Learn to spell some common homophones e.g 'their, they're and there'.
- That on words with a short vowel sound consonants are doubled when a suffix is added e.g hum / hummed, pat / patting.

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 explanations, 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.