

English information for parents

Reading



As we have done previously, each child in Y3-6 (and some Y2 children) has taken a STAR read assessment test. This has provided a level for

each child, and each child will then choose books suitable to their level. Each book then has a quiz allocated to it to see how well they have read and understood it. As normal, teachers will monitor the quiz scores and encourage children to choose books at a higher or lower level depending on how well they are achieving. Before lockdown, we aimed to give children an opportunity to read in school, three times a week. This is now timetabled in for each day.

For YR-2 reading, please see *Phonics*, below.

Spelling

As some of you may know, we use the *ReadWriteInc.* phonics scheme in Years R-2 to teach phonics. This scheme also provides a spelling scheme, which KS2 will be starting in Autumn 2. In preparation for this scheme, and its routines and terminology, Years 3-6 are using Autumn 1 to revise phonics sounds each day. The KS2 staff are working closely with the KS1 teachers to ensure quality teaching. Please note, that at present, children do not have weekly spellings to learn as homework.

More information about the new spelling scheme will be made available nearer to the time.

Writing, including punctuation and grammar

To support children in their return to writing, we are using Autumn 1 to revise, and teach where necessary, learning objectives from the previous year group.

Years 2-5 we are working to a two-week cycle of learning. We are referring to week 1 as a 'Quick write' week, and week 2 as 'Butterfly writing' week.

Quick write week

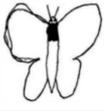
Quick write weeks largely follow the same format each day, and are designed to provide children with the skills needed for the second week of Butterfly writing.

Example quick write lesson	
Approximate timings	Example
15 minutes of PaG (punctuation and grammar) work.	Singular and plural nouns; possessive apostrophes
40 minutes of discussion leading to a short piece of writing that uses the PaG	Briefly discuss a picture before writing a short character description using possessive apostrophes.
5 minutes of editing	Recap objective to ensure it has been met; edit accordingly.

Butterfly writing week

This week follows a format that the children were using – and therefore are familiar with – before lockdown, but with flexibility where needed.

Usually, a week follows the format below but teachers will use their judgement. If children need more time drafting, for example, they may forgo the 'writing neatly' stage and use two lessons to draft so that there is adequate writing to enhance and edit.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
Planning	Drafting	Enhancing	Editing	Write up neatly

NB: Year 6 are working to a 3 week cycle with an additional week of Butterfly writing so as to start building a portfolio of independent writing ready for the end of KS2 assessment (SATs).

Conferencing

We are continuing to use conferencing (a 1:1 meeting about writing – socially distanced) as a way to target the needs of particular children. As well as the class teacher, we are fortunate that Mrs Lewis is also working with Year 3, 4 and 5, meaning more children can be conferenced per week. Before lockdown, we aimed to complete conferencing three times a week. This is now timetabled in for every day.



Phonics

Years R-2 will start/continue with the *ReadWriteInc.* phonics scheme. This scheme will guide them through learning how to read and write sounds, and then words. Children will have reading books linked to their phonics.