

Curriculum Overview High Ham Church of England Primary School

Curriculum Area: English

Our curriculum approach to English reflects our ethos statement:

'Discovering Learning, Believing Together'.

We are keen for pupils to discover their own passion for English and how this enables them to discover new learning for themselves.

The name of the current curriculum lead is on the school website on the curriculum page.

Intent

At High Ham, our intention is that all children will develop a love of literature, enjoying reading for pleasure, as well as having a keen interest in finding information from a range of texts. Our aim is to ensure children have the ability, confidently and clearly, to communicate ideas and emotions through their writing and speaking. For children to be able to do this, we want them to acquire a wide vocabulary by introducing them to a diverse range of stories and texts, talking about the different vocabulary they encounter and encouraging them to incorporate this into their own speaking and written work. We want children to have the confidence in their own speaking and writing in order to present their ideas to others, whether spoken or written, accurately and coherently. They should understand how to adapt their language and style to fit a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.

Implementation

To meet these aims, our English lessons are centred around carefully chosen, high quality texts, whether fiction or non-fiction, in order to engage and inspire the children. Each new book or topic is usually introduced through an exciting 'wow' activity in order to capture the imagination of the children. The children become very familiar with the text they are working on as a class, through reading or being read to and taking part in a range of immersive activities (often cross curricular) analysing and discussing key elements. This ensures children have a confident understanding of the content of the text, enabling them to produce original, independent written work, based around the text, which they can confidently present, either by reading aloud or discussion. Texts used are from a variety of genres and can be books written by a particular author whose work we are focusing on as a class, or texts about a particular topic we are working on in History or Geography etc., which deepen the children's understanding. Children are provided with support materials when helpful, such as word banks and writer's toolkits to support their understanding of different genres and to encourage use of a wide vocabulary thus making their writing exciting or interesting to the reader. Children are taught to consider their audience and the purpose for which they are writing to foster an enthusiasm for good presentation and quality content in their written work.

Letter formation: Children at High Ham learn to form letters in a pre- cursive style in Reception, this gives them the technique to be able to seamlessly move on to joined cursive writing during Year 2, which continues to be improved upon as they move up through the year groups. Children will focus on ensuring they form their letters correctly,

making them appropriately sized with their words correctly spaced. They will understand the differences in how lower-case and upper-case letters are formed and will write clearly in order that they, or a different reader, can easily read their writing.

Spelling: Children are introduced to sounding out words to independently spell through the daily Phonics lessons they have in Reception and Year 1. This progresses to learning spelling rules and patterns found in phonics Phase 6, which are taught from Year 2 using the Westover Green spelling programme. Children explore the spelling patterns and analyse the exceptions, finding methods and strategies which will help them to retain these spellings. Children are given spellings to learn each week and are tested on these words the following week.

Grammar and Punctuation: Grammar objectives are identified and explored through the quality texts teachers use as their focus. This is sometimes supplemented through discrete lessons planned from the Nelson Grammar Scheme or similarly focused activities.

Impact

The children will develop a love of literature, taking pleasure in reading both fiction and non-fiction texts for enjoyment and to find information. They will encounter a wide range of vocabulary across a range of genres and will be able to include this appropriately within their writing and speaking. They will enjoy writing across a range of genres, with a good understanding of the purpose and audience of their work. They will take pride in the presentation of their writing as they grow in confidence with their letter formation, progressing from pre-cursive to joined cursive writing between Key Stage 1 and 2. The children will leave High Ham able to effectively apply spelling rules and patterns that have been taught. The children will have become confident and competent in presenting their own ideas to others through spoken debates and formal presentations.

Planning

The school website has links to the planning. This has been separated into year groups: Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6. Within these overviews, the author focus for each term or half term has been chosen by the class teacher, along with other books focused on for that term, along with associated activities, both spoken and written.

Knowledge and skills progression through the school

At High Ham English skills and knowledge will be developed by carefully building on previous levels of understanding to ensure continued progress. Generally, the progression will be:

Writing

Year 1

- Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.
- Begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place. ['c' shapes start at top and are made anti-clockwise, no letter starts at the bottom.]
- Form capital letters
- Form digits 0-9
- Understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these.

- Saying out loud what they are going to write about.
- Composing a sentence orally before writing it.
- Sequencing sentences to form short narratives.
- Re-reading what they have written to check that it makes sense.
- Discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils.
- Read aloud their writing clearly enough to be heard by their peers and the teacher.

Year 2

- Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another.
- Start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.
- Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.
- Writing narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fictional).
- Writing about real events.
- Writing poetry.
- Writing for different purposes.
- Planning or saying out loud what they are going to write about.
- Writing down ideas and/or key words, including new vocabulary.
- Encapsulating what they want to say, sentence by sentence.
- Evaluating their writing with the teacher and other pupils.
- Re-reading to check that their writing makes sense and that verbs to indicate time are used correctly and consistently, including verbs in the continuous form.
- Proof-reading to check for errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation [for example, ends of sentences punctuated correctly].
- Read aloud what they have written with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear.

Year 3/4

- Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch.
- Discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar.
- Discussing and recording ideas.
- Composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures (English Appendix 2).
- Organising paragraphs around a theme.
- In narratives, creating settings, characters and plot.
- In non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices [for example, headings and sub-headings].
- Assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements.

- Proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences.
- Proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors.
- Read aloud their own writing, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.

Year 5/6

- Choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters.
 - Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.
 - Identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own composition.
 - Noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary.
 - Using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs.
 - Assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing.
 - Proof reading for spelling and punctuation errors.
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- Perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume and movement so that meaning is clear.
 - In writing narratives, considering how authors have developed characters and settings in what pupils have read, listened to or seen performed.
 - Selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning.
 - In narratives describing settings, characters and atmosphere, integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action;
 - Precising longer passages.
 - Using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader (for example, headings, statements and underlining).
 - Proposing changes to Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning.
 - Ensuring the consistent and correct use of tense throughout a piece of writing.
 - Ensuring correct subject and verb agreement when using singular and plural, distinguishing between the language of speech and writing and choosing the appropriate register.
 - In writing narratives, considering how authors have developed characters and settings in what pupils have read, listened to or seen performed.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar:

Year 1

- Words containing each of the 40+ phonemes already taught.
- Common exception words.
- The days of the week.
- Naming the letters of the alphabet in order.
- Using letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound.
- Using the spelling rule for adding –s or –es as the plural marker for nouns and the third person singular marker for verbs.

- Using the prefix un–.
- Using –ing, –ed, –er and –est where no change is needed in the spelling of root words [for example, helping, helped, helper, eating, quicker, quickest].
- Apply simple spelling rules and guidance, as listed in English Appendix 1.
- Write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs and common exception words taught so far.
- Regular plural noun suffixes –s or –es (eg, dog, dogs; wish, wishes), including the effects of these suffixes on the meaning of the noun.
- Suffixes that can be added to verbs where no change is needed in the spelling of root words (eg, helping, helped, helper).
- How the prefix un– changes the meaning of verbs and adjectives (negation, eg, unkind, or undoing, eg, untie the boat).
- How words can combine to make sentences.
- Joining words and joining clauses using and.
- Sequencing sentences to form short narratives.
- Separation of words with spaces.
- Introduction to capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences.
- Using a capital letters for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun 'I.'
- Use the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 in discussing their writing (letter, capital letter, word, singular, plural, sentence, punctuation, full stop, question mark, exclamation mark).

Year 2

- phonemes and representing these by graphemes, spelling many correctly.
- Learning new ways of spelling phonemes for which one or more spellings are already known, and learn some words with each spelling, including
- a few common homophones.
- Learning to spell common exception words.
- Learning to spell more words with contracted forms.
- Learning the possessive apostrophe (singular) [for example, the girl's book].
- Add suffixes to spell longer words, including –ment, –ness, –ful, –less, –ly.
- Apply spelling rules and guidance, as listed in English Appendix 1.
- Write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs, common exception words and punctuation
- taught so far.
- Distinguishing between homophones and near-homophones.
- Formation of adjectives using suffixes such as –ful, –less.
- Use of the suffixes –er, –est in adjectives and –ly to turn adjectives into adverbs.
- Subordination (using when, if, that, because) and co-ordination (using or, and, but).
- Expanded noun phrases for description and specification (eg, the blue butterfly, plain flour, the man in the moon).
- How the grammatical patterns in a sentence indicate its function as a statement, question, exclamation or command.
- Correct choice and consistent use of present tense and past tense throughout writing.
- Use of the progressive form of verbs in the present and past tense to mark actions in progress (eg, she is drumming, he was shouting).

- Use of capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences.
- Commas to separate items in a list.
- Apostrophes to mark where letters are missing in spelling and to mark singular possession in nouns (e.g. the girl's name).
- Use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 in discussing their writing (noun, noun phrase, statement, question, exclamation, command, compound, adjective, verb, suffix, tense (past, present), apostrophe, comma).
- Formation of nouns using suffixes such as -ness, -er and by compounding (e.g., whiteboard, superman).

Year 3/4

- Use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them (English Appendix 1 (Year 3/4)).
- Spell further homophones.
- Spell words that are often misspelt (English Appendix 1 (Year 3/4)).
- Place the possessive apostrophe accurately in words with regular plurals [for example, girls', boys'] and in words with irregular plurals [for example, children's].
- Use the first two or three letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary.
- Write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far of words in context.
- Use of the forms 'a' or 'an' according to whether the next word begins with a consonant or a vowel (eg, a rock, an open box).
- Word families based on common words, showing how words are related in form and meaning (eg, solve, solution, solver, dissolve, insoluble).
- Expressing time, place and cause using conjunctions (eg, when, before, after, while, so, because), adverbs (eg, then, next, soon, therefore), or prepositions (eg, before, after, during, in, because of).
- Introduction to inverted commas to punctuate direct speech.
- Introduction to paragraphs as a way to group related material.
- Headings and sub-headings to aid presentation.
- Use of the present perfect form of verbs instead of the simple past (eg, He has gone out to play contrasted with He went out to play).
- Use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 (Year 3) accurately and appropriately when discussing their writing and reading (adverb, preposition conjunction, word family, prefix, clause, subordinate clause, direct speech, consonant, consonant letter vowel, vowel letter, inverted commas (or 'speech marks')).
- Formation of nouns using a range of prefixes such as super-, anti-, auto-
- The grammatical difference between plural and possessive -s.
- Standard English forms for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms (eg, 'we were' rather than 'we was', or 'I did' rather than 'I done').
- Noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases (eg, the teacher expanded to: the strict maths teacher with curly hair).
- Fronted adverbials (eg, 'Later that day, I heard the bad news.')
- Use of paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme.
- Appropriate choice of pronoun or noun within and across sentences to aid cohesion and avoid repetition.

- Use of inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate direct speech eg, a comma after the reporting clause; end punctuation within
- Inverted commas (eg, 'The conductor shouted, "Sit down!"')
- Apostrophes to mark singular and plural possession (eg, the girl's name, the girls' names).
- Use of commas after fronted adverbials.
- Use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 (Year 4) accurately and appropriately when discussing writing and
- reading (determiner, pronoun, possessive pronoun, adverbial).
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Year 5/6

- Use a thesaurus.
- Use the first three or four letters of a word to check spelling, meaning or both of these in a dictionary.
- Use dictionaries to check the spelling and meaning of words.
- Continue to distinguish between homophones and other words which are often confused.
- Use further prefixes and suffixes and understand the guidance for adding them.
- Spell some words with 'silent' letters [for example, knight, psalm, solemn].
- Use knowledge of morphology and etymology in spelling and understand that the spelling of some words needs to be learnt specifically, as listed in English Appendix 1 (Years 6).
- Relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that, or an omitted relative pronoun.
- Brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis.
- The difference between vocabulary typical of informal speech and vocabulary appropriate for formal speech and writing (eg, find out – discover; ask for – request; go in – enter).
- How words are related by meaning as synonyms and antonyms (e.g., big, large, little).
- Use of the passive to affect the presentation of information in a sentence (eg, 'I broke the window in the greenhouse' versus 'The window in the
- greenhouse was broken [by me]').
- The difference between structures typical of informal speech and structures appropriate for formal speech and writing (such as the use of
- question tags, eg, 'He's your friend, isn't he?', or the use of subjunctive forms such as 'If I were' or 'Were they to come' in some very formal writing
- and speech).
- Linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices: repetition of a word or phrase, grammatical connections (eg, the use of
- adverbials such as on the other hand, in contrast, or as a consequence), and ellipsis.
- Layout devices, such as headings, sub-headings, columns, bullets, or tables, to structure text.
- Use of the semi-colon, colon and dash to mark the boundary between independent clauses (eg, 'It's raining; I'm fed up').
- Use of the colon to introduce a list.
- Punctuation of statements to list information.

- How hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity (eg, man eating shark versus man-eating shark, or recover versus re-cover).
- Use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 (Year 6) accurately and appropriately when discussing their writing and
- reading (subject, object, active, passive, synonym, antonym, ellipsis, hyphen, colon, semi-colon, bullet points).

Recording

Recording of lessons will take place in English books across all year groups. Some specific Punctuation and Grammar work may be recorded in scheme workbooks for Key Stage 1. Work from children from Reception onwards will also be documented through the class Twitter feeds, with evidence of completed work photographed.

Reporting

On our annual reports, which are given to parents at the end of the year, a judgement will be made regarding their child's attainment in writing relating to the national curriculum for their year group. For example, HNM (Has Not Met), ARE (Age Related Expectations), GD (Greater Depth).

Monitoring

[#HighHamEnglish](#) and [#HighHamReading](#) Twitter feeds show the range of English work being done across the classes, linked to the objectives for each year group. Each class teacher, with input from the curriculum leader, ensures English planning matches the children's ability and offers the opportunity for challenge, as we aim to ensure continued progress for all children. The curriculum leader regularly works alongside their curriculum partner to collate evidence including analysing how lessons are planned, looking at children's work in books, observing Guided Reading sessions, speaking to pupils about their reading and experiences in English lessons and discussing what has gone well and anything which needs building on or improving. Where relevant, the implementation of school policies (such as marking) will be reviewed in light of the well-being school's agenda (aspect of the School Development Plan) to ensure the workload for reading is manageable and is making an impact on the children's learning.

Review

April 2023