

# The Year 4 Learner

## Approach

In English lessons, children are taught speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through studying a variety of styles of writing (genres). Teachers follow the Teaching Sequence for Writing, which means that children will firstly be taught to read and understand the text, then practise the skills of the style of writing (including grammar) and apply into their own writing.

## Y4 English Coverage

In Year 4 children will experience writing with the following text types:

Narrative: Stories in familiar settings  
Myths / Historical stories  
Adventure stories  
Mystery and suspense stories  
Letters  
Plays

Poetry: Significant Poems  
Haiku  
Cinquin  
Imagery

Non – fiction: Instructions  
Recounts  
Persuasion  
Explanations  
Non – chronological reports  
Biographies  
Journalistic writing  
Arguments  
Formal writing

Children will encounter **key poets and authors** such as C S Lewis, Pie Corbett, William Shakespeare, William Blake, Roald Dahl, Mini Grey, Christian Birmingham, Michael Morpurgo, Quentin Blake, Michael Foreman.

## **Curriculum Content**

### **Speaking and Listening**

Children will be taught to discuss their learning and to develop speaking skills. They will become more familiar with and confident in, using language in a variety of situations, for a range of audiences and purposes. They will, for example

- Develop their understanding of a subject through discussions, learning to give their opinions and listen to other view points
- Speak clearly and in different ways for drama, formal presentations and debate.

### **Reading**

This part of the curriculum is broken down into 'word reading' and 'comprehension'.

In word reading children will be taught to read and understand the meaning of new words using the skills they have learned previously and building on learning in year 3. Children will develop the fluency and stamina to read longer texts and the focus for the Year 4 learner is comprehension. Children will be taught key skills to enable them to read, understand and enjoy a wide range of books. They will, for example:

- Summarise the main ideas of a text
- Justify their opinion of particular characters
- Discuss ideas that are not obviously described in a text eg 'Explain why the character may have felt like this.'
- Note how the author chooses language to create a mood or atmosphere
- Identify the structures or features of particular non-fiction texts

### **Writing**

Writing is developed through teaching the following:

**Spelling:** Children should learn to spell new words correctly and have opportunities to practise spelling skills. They will be taught spelling patterns and conventions, building on the spellings taught in Year 3. They will continue to practise and use the words included in Appendix 1 of the National Curriculum for years 3 & 4.

**Handwriting:** This will continue to be taught, with the aim of increasing children's consistency and fluency throughout their independent writing.

**Composition** (structure): This includes vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. To develop their composition skills, the children will be taught to

- Plan, draft, compose, edit and evaluate their writing
- Organise their writing into clear paragraphs
- Use an increasing range of sentence structures

- Expand sentences by adding detail
- Write for a range of purposes and audiences as part of their work across the curriculum using a range of text types from the list above.

Grammar will be taught throughout the writing process and teachers will follow the terms and concepts of Appendix 2 of the National Curriculum.

Should you wish for a more detailed explanation, please follow this link to the [Primary National Curriculum document](#)