



Developing Creative and Engaging Writers at Acresfield

Year 6

Our Approach to Writing

This booklet is designed to give parents an overview of expectations in Year 6 linked to the English writing curriculum.

It outlines the following:

- Curriculum expectations in spelling, handwriting, composition, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation for children in Year 6
- Approaches to learning used by staff at Acresfield
- Ways you can support your child at home

Composition

Children should be able to

Plan their writing by:

- identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own
- developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary by adding scenes, dialogue or changing narrative openings
- in writing narratives, considering how authors have developed characters and settings in what they have read, listened to or seen performed

Draft and write by:

- selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning
- creating convincing characters and gradually reveal more about them as the story develops
- creating settings and developing atmospheres before showing the character's reaction to it
- using dialogue to advance action or reveal new information
- using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs eg adverbs and adverbial phrases
- using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader [for example, headings, bullet points, underlining]

Evaluate and edit by:

- assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing
- proposing changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning
- ensuring the consistent and correct use of tense throughout a piece of writing and ensuring correct subject and verb agreement when using singular and plural

Spelling

Children should learn to spell by:

- adding the prefixes and suffixes -cial, -tial, -ant, -ance/-ancy, -ation, -ent, -ence/-ency, -fer
- continuing to distinguish between homophones and other words which are often confused eg compliment/complement; **principal** as in the head of a college and **principal** ballerina
- identifying words with silent letters eg. doubt, island , solemn



Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation

Children should be able to:

- Use expanded noun phrases, adverbs and preposition to convey meaning clearly and add detail eg. The fact that it was raining meant the end of the Summer Fair.
- Use relative clauses to explain and make relationships between ideas clear using a range of relative pronouns eg The house, **which stood on the corner of the street**, was derelict.
- Use the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause eg. I **have written** it down
- Use adverbs and modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility eg **perhaps, surely, might, could**
- Use the passive voice to change the way information is presented. eg **The window in the greenhouse was broken**, instead of The boy broke the window in the green house
- Use brackets, dashes and commas to indicate parenthesis
- Use colons to introduce a list and semi-colons to separate items within a list.
- Use commas accurately to clarify meaning in a sentence

Handwriting

Children should be able to:

- Write legibly and fluently when writing at an increased speed, including appropriate choice of letter shape and whether or not to join letters depending on the purpose of the writing and the audience.

How Can I Help My Child?

Build writing into everyday life
Support the strategies used in school

In Year 6, the children will engage in writing every day. They have spelling sessions daily and the children complete a spelling test at the end of each week. They will also have English homework set on a Thursday which may last one week or longer depending on the task. Homework usually relates to what the children have been learning in their lessons. Through the year, children will engage in many different types of writing from stories to discussion writing.

Parents can look for ways to reinforce writing in everyday situations as well as supporting the children with their homework. This could include short stories, letter writing and diaries.

Parents can support writing by engaging in lots of talk and story telling.

Writing should be enjoyable for both you and your child. Write a little, often and make the time special and fun. Please feel free to speak to the class teacher for any further advice.

At the end of the year, we will be aiming for the children to be enjoying their writing, writing in a variety of genres and presenting their work clearly for the reader to enjoy, ready to move into Year 7.

