

# The Year 1 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.

The Primary National Curriculum statements will be taught through the modules below.

## Y1 English Coverage

The Year 1 English curriculum consists of the following modules.

Stories with predictable phrasing

Contemporary fiction – stories reflecting children’s own experience

Traditional tales/fairy tales

Non-fiction (information books)

Rhyme and poetry books

Key poets/authors your children will encounter are:

Edward Lear

Michael Rosen

Julia Donaldson

Martin Waddell

Valerie Thomas

Judith Kerr

Allan Ahlberg

Jonathan Langley

Quentin Blake

## Curriculum Content

### **Speaking and Listening**

The children will become more familiar with and confident in using language in a greater variety of situations. They will, for example:

- Listen to and discuss a wide range of books and poems
- Recognise and join in with predictable phrases
- Learn some rhymes and poems to recite by heart
- Discuss the meaning of words and extend vocabulary
- Join in with discussions and explain their understanding
- Change their speaking when taking on a role of a character during play

## **Reading**

This part of the curriculum is broken down into 'word reading' and 'comprehension'. In Year 1, pupils continue to learn to read words using phonics as well as learning to recognise words that cannot easily be sounded out (common exception words/tricky words) e.g. *the*. We teach phonics through "Letters and sounds" and "Jolly Phonics".

As well as being able to read words, children need to understand what they read and develop a life-long love of reading. They will learn to do this through carefully structured activities using a wide range of high-quality books. They are encouraged to:

- Read for enjoyment
- Make links between their own experiences and the story
- Check that they understand what they are reading
- Talk about the title and the main events
- Predict what might happen before they read it
- Join in with predictable phrases

## **Writing**

In Year 1 children develop their writing through the following areas:

### **Spelling:**

- Spell words using phonics
- Learn commonly used whole words that are difficult to sound out
- Spell the days of the week
- Begin to look at patterns and rules

### **Handwriting:**

- Hold a pencil correctly
- Form letters cursively and confidently
- Form digits correctly and confidently
- Leave spaces between words

### **Composition:**

- Speak in whole sentences
- Write sequences of sentences
- Re-read and check for sense
- Develop a wide vocabulary
- Use capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks
- Join sentences with 'and'

For further information, please refer to the national curriculum.