

A message from Mrs Stevens - Writing lead:

Writing at Darlinghurst is interesting and stimulating and encourages our children to be creative and imaginative. We challenge them with adventurous vocabulary and always encourage them to improve their work through focused editing. A writer is rarely satisfied with their first draft and this is a skill we want to instil in the pupils here – you can always make it better; maybe with a word or rearranging a sentence to make it more effective. I want the children to see themselves as authors and to be proud of the writing they produce. Seeing the enthusiasm from a child when they share their work with an audience is always a joy and it is these moments I want to see across our academy.

Design and Purpose

Writing permeates the entire curriculum. We have a structured writing approach that we adopt in Writing lessons four times a week, This includes offering children modelled examples of what we expect them to achieve, word mats (with vocabulary that may help and stretch them) and scaffolds to work with. At the end of each 1 or 2 week writing cycle, we expect the children to write a well -composed, independent piece of writing. Although, they are allowed dictionaries and thesauruses. Children will be offered opportunities to write creatively in their topic lessons too i.e. when studying World War they might write a soldier's diary letter or a letter from an evacuee. They might write about their science experiment, writing instructions, making hypothesis or extrapolating results .We also teach grammar, punctuation and spelling within the writing cycle and as separate lessons.

Termly Reflections

Autumn 2021

Each year group across the school has written a variety of fiction and non-fiction including stories and reports. Some great texts have been shared as stimuli including the classic tale of Dogger, Harry Potter and letters to Facebook. Children have learnt that writing is for several purposes: to entertain, inform, persuade or discuss and by using the new Working Wall formats, which have been implemented across the academy, they are able to identify features of these types of writing. Sir Linkalot has been used to support the teaching of spelling and children enjoy watching the video clips and practising daily in class. Children have worked hard to earn gold presentation best stickers for their handwriting and are rightly proud to show these off.

Difference

Our children learn to be successful learners through building on and scaffolding their basic writing skills in the first week of our writing cycle, which is called 'Our Write'. Using the skills developed i.e. how to use adverbial openers (Amazingly, A year later etc...) in the first week of the cycle enables them to use these skills independently therefore becoming writers that are more independent in the second week of the cycle, which is called 'My Write'. They develop the skills of spelling, editing and using different grammatical forms and punctuation through practice and the 'Build' part of our writing cycle. The 'Build' lesson is a shared, modelled writing session where children write sentence-by-sentence together using peer partners and their steps to success. They gain the knowledge of how to improve their writing and support their partners in improving their writing, making them effective contributors in lessons. Our children are equipped to be confident individuals as we challenge them to constantly develop their writing skills.

'Achieving Excellence Together'

Useful websites

BBC Bitesize

Use BBC Bitesize grammar, some interesting games and activities. I like the verb tense ones. There are also some great videos on here for introducing spelling rules.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhrrd2p>

British council

Use British Council's grammar games, great for verb tenses

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/grammar-vocabulary>

BBC Teach

BBC Teach, some great video stimulus on here for writing. Spelling songs are great ie Supermovers for Key Stage 1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks1-english/z67ncqt>

The School Run

The School Run's grammar worksheets are quite good

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/subject/worksheets/grammar/all>

Literacy Shed

The Literacy Shed has a vast array of animations to inspire creative writing

<https://www.literacyshed.com/home.htm>

Writing Gallery

