

Spring 2022

There has been a real buzz around with writing this term. Children have been engaged in a huge range of different styles and have been focused on improving their handwriting and earning gold stars for their presentation best. Children in Reception enjoyed reading the story of 'The Tiger who Came to Tea' and wrote sentences about who they would invite to their own tea party. The children have worked hard to practise their pencil grips. Our Year 1 children did some hot-seating when looking at a text based on 'Owl Babies' to imagine how the characters were feeling and created instructions on how to grow a sunflower. Instructions in Year 2 this term included when children wrote how to make an origami dog. Our Year 3 children have been international with their writing and created travel guides for Guatemala and stories based on the Mayan creation. They have also used a discussion text to debate whether homework is a good or bad thing. Year 4 classes also used a question to create balanced argument, 'Should we eat chocolate?' Linking to the academy-wide theme of diversity, children in Year 5 wrote biographies on celebrity members of the LGBTQ+ community including Elton John and Tom Daley. Our Year 6 children have written newspaper articles based on the escape of characters in 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban' and also created horror stories inspired by a short film called 'Alma'. It has been amazing to see our children enthusiastic about their writing and sharing their successes this term.

Summer Term

Being creative and celebrating the Platinum Jubilee have been central to writing across the academy this term. Children have enjoyed creating a range of text based on literature inspired by the Queen including 'The Queen's Knickers' and Katie in London. Linked to the long reign of Her Majesty, year groups across the academy have researched decades and used their findings to write instructions on how to play 1980's inspired games in Year 3 and non-chronological reports in Year 5. Poetry has also been a key aspect with all years groups exploring poems in different forms. Year 2 wrote haiku poems whilst Year 4 created narrative poems based on 'A View from a Railway Carriage' and Year 6 wrote monologues about The Lady of Shallot. Our youngest pupils in the Rockpool have been excited by a range of stories including The Rainbow Fish and Octopants, which has encouraged them to write independently. A creative writing week took place across the academy, with children being given the freedom to write in their preferred style. It was amazing to see so many brilliant ideas from stories set 40,000 years in the future to the formation of the Spice Girls. We hope to encourage this creativity in writing in the next academic year.

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 ie 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

Victorian Suffragette Word mat

Model verbs
 must (not)
 should (not)
 would
 could
 might
 may

Other useful words
 place, not
 jagged
 voracious
 Peeters
 Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU)
 'Votes for Women' petition
 reconstructed buildings

Synonyms
 imprisoned-incarcerated
 raided-stormed, ransacked
 discovered-exposed
 prominent buildings-landmarks
 conditions-state of affairs
 institution-organisation, establishment
 urgent-critical, pressing, burning
 perturbed-distressed, agitated
 dismayed-demoralised, disheartened
 inconvenience-tiresomeness
 resolute-staunch, unwielding
 endeavour-venture
 approach-line of attack
 published
 targeted

We are here, not because we are law-breakers; we are here in our efforts to become law-makers.

"I would rather be a rebel than a slave."
 Emmeline Pankhurst

"Justice and judgment lie often as world apart."
 Emmeline Pankhurst

FIVE DEVELOPMENTAL PHASES

| FIVE DEVELOPMENTAL PHASES | SASSOON® CAMBRIDGE JOINER | Pencil Progression | Pencil typesizes* |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| 2 BEGINNING TO JOIN | pen | Red is used for the focus join and joining letters to teach focus. | Year 2/Primary 2 5 mm a Year 3/Primary 3 4 mm |
| 3 SECURING THE JOIN | secure | Once all joins have been taught, all words are shown as joined for practice and consolidation. | Year 4/Primary 4 3 mm a |
| 4 PRACTISING SPEED AND FLUENCY | faster | Children are encouraged to develop an individual style for speed and legibility. | Year 5/Primary 5 onwards 2 mm a |
| 5 PRESENTATION SKILLS | individual print | Further development of an individual style as well as presentation skills and techniques. | * Letters in red are for finger tracking. Letters in black are writing models. |