

Writing Southville Primary School



Intent:

At Southville Primary School we aspire to be adventurous and creative writers. Our writing curriculum will inspire and equip pupils to write to entertain, to discuss, to persuade, to explain and to inform. We help to lay the foundations for the enjoyment and effective use of language, which is so necessary for our children's working lives and beyond.

We will do this by:

- Providing a supportive, stimulating and secure environment where children are encouraged to express themselves and where their contributions are valued.
- Developing children's ability to use language to think, to explore and to communicate their ideas, both orally and in writing.
- Inspiring their appreciation and enjoyment of literature, sharing high quality texts as models of good writing.
- Providing opportunities to write for a variety of purposes and audiences in a variety of styles and forms appropriate to the situation.
- Encouraging children to use their imagination and inventiveness in their writing, as well as teaching them the subject content they need to draw on.
- Helping children to communicate effectively, both verbally and non-verbally, through a variety of dramatic activities, including the communication of their ideas, views and feelings.
- Cultivating an interest in words and their meanings, developing a growing and explorative vocabulary in both spoken and written forms.
- Developing children's critical awareness and strategies for self-monitoring, editing and improving their own work.
- Setting high expectations of standards in literacy across the curriculum, recognising its importance for communicating and learning in all subjects.

Implementation:

Writing is taught as part of our immersive curriculum. As children are immersed in a subject for a term, they study quality books about this topic and learn from related trips and visitors which allow them to develop the knowledge to write with confidence and authority. In class, teachers plan structured opportunities to explore authentic and written model pieces so children understand the characteristics of different genres. Children use the knowledge, vocabulary and content learnt in foundation subjects to assist and inspire their writing. When children are in a 'writing' part of their learning journey, lessons provide the building blocks and skills children will need to be successful in a particular genre. Children are taught a suitable grammar concept which helps them to write accurately and learn the correct terminology to discuss writing with precision.

Each half term, children complete at least two learning blocks, working towards a finished, high quality piece of writing at the end of each block. All genres will be covered across the course of the year. See the content overview at the end of the document.

Each week contains around 5 hours of writing a week. This is usually taught in the morning, but can also be grouped into doubles or split into shorter chunks depending on the lesson and timetable.

General planning sequence (Non-fiction)

- Identify text / genre, audience and purpose (TAP)
- Entry point or hook
- Explore a variety of rich models related to the genre, including a WAGOLL for non-fiction (which involves children identifying key features & key vocabulary and it then being visible on a working wall)
- Prewriting activities (e.g. drama, role play and oracy activities)
- Break up the writing into chunks, focussing on specific sentence structures, grammar and vocabulary, as listed in the success criteria

- High quality modelling of each 'chunk' of writing ('live', sharing the frustrations and successes involved as well as metalanguage)
- Sharing instruct pupils to share, read, and edit each other's work: provide feedback, 'Magpie' good ideas, use visualizers.
- Planning identify the key points / content that will go into the final piece and set them out into a logical order
- Drafting first draft which they can then edit and revise based on feedback
- Evaluating—checking writing against the success criteria (teacher; class; peer; self evaluation)
- Revising and editing ensure the text is accurate and coherent. At this stage, spelling and grammar assume greater importance
- Publishing (e.g. displaying work, presenting to other classes, sending copies to parents and carers)

Assessment for Learning strategies are central to the effective teaching of writing and are used throughout the process.

- Planning and sharing focussed learning intentions and learning skills
- Constructing Success Criteria from a model
- Opportunities for in-lesson feedback (learning stops/sharing work under the visualiser/individual verbal feedback)
- Specific marking based on the WALT or SC, identifying areas of success and improvement
- Planned time for marking response as part to the learning cycle
- Self/peer assessment opportunities are built into the writing sequence

Narrative planning

When teaching narrative units, we have adopted "The Write Stuff" approach by Jane Considine, to bring clarity to the mechanics of writing. "The Write Stuff" follows a method called "Sentence Stacking" which is based on high quality modelling of sentence writing and engages children with short, intensive moments of learning that they can then immediately apply to their own work. Sentence stacking helps children to write thoughtful, varied, purposeful sentences, building towards a longer piece of coherent and cohesive writing. The approach is based on a sentence model, broken into 3 learning chunks. Each learning chunk has three sections:

- 1. **Initiate** section a stimulus to capture the children's imagination and set up a sentence
- 2. Model section the teacher models a sentence that outlines clear writing features and techniques
- 3. **Enable** section the children write their sentence, following the model

Children are challenged to 'Deepen the Moment' which requires them to independently draw upon previously learnt skills and apply them to their writing during that chunk.

"The Write Stuff" draws upon three essential components, making up 'The Writing Rainbow', which supports children in becoming confident. creative writers. The three zones of writing:

- **IDEAS** The FANTASTICs uses a child friendly acronym to represent the nine idea lenses through which children can craft their ideas.
- TOOLS The GRAMMARISTICS are the grammar rules of our language system and an accessible way to target and teach grammatical and linguistic structures.
- **TECHNIQUES** The BOOMTASTICs focuses on specific linguistic and creative techniques, allowing pupils to develop and showcase their own voice and style of writing.

Key benefits of this approach include:

- Children have a deeper and more flexible knowledge of sentence structure.
- Children understand how to apply sentence scaffolds to their independent writing as they develop their expertise.
- Standards improve because many worked examples are provided over the year that extend understanding through a wide range of genres and non-fiction text types.

- Children have a clear view of what high quality writing looks like and their learning is structured clearly and misconceptions dealt with.
- Children know how to improve their writing and make it more focussed and actionable feedback is provided to guide their learning.
- Children have a concept of how to build, plan and complete a piece of writing due to narrative maps and non-fiction shapes.
- Teachers have clear pathways of how to guide pupils in weak areas such as cohesion and paragraphs.

EYFS

Formal writing will begin by building physical strength (gross and fine motor skills) alongside their phonics knowledge, in order to work towards turning mark making and exploration into writing meaningful words, phrases and sentences. Teachers plan and deliver teacher directed group work based on the immersive learning topic. Continued teacher assessments provide clear individual targeted next steps for children to focus on in their next session.

Communication is at the heart of teaching writing. Language is nurtured through developing ideas, strengthening talk and widening writing opportunities. This builds children's confidence, vocabulary and pupil voice. High quality books inspire, model and engage children in the writing process. The rich learning environment is also key, with many engaging opportunities for mark making, talking and writing available for children to choose.

5 Star Sentences

Each year group has their own age-appropriate "5 Star Sentences" poster which focuses on handwriting, grammar and punctuation and vocabulary objectives that teachers are looking to see included throughout all writing across the curriculum. This is built up throughout the year and is in addition to the genre specific grammar, punctuation and composition elements that are included when planning for a specific piece of writing. It enables staff to constantly recap, revisit, remind and refer children to these expectations when writing.



Grammar and Punctuation

Grammar and punctuation are key parts of the writing process and children need to know these elements in order to write effectively. We teach grammar in line with the National Curriculum requirements. An understanding of how to use grammar correctly, use relevant meta-language and identify word classes and sentence types is taught both in the context of a piece of writing and explicitly in whole class work. Our genre and grammar and punctuation progression overview document ensures that learning is progressive, meets the requirements in the National Curriculum and is taught and planned to fit in with relevant genres of writing. We outline which explicit areas of grammar and punctuation need to be covered by each year group and also use a sentence level progression document to help guide teachers to consider what comes before in relation to prerequisite skills and knowledge and what comes after in relation to extending their writing. The school uses "Deepening Understanding" as a key resource when teaching grammar and punctuation.

Handwriting

Handwriting is a basic tool used in many subjects: taking notes, taking tests, and completing classroom work and homework. Handwriting is empowering for children, enabling them to write clearly and at length. Having a fluent, comfortable handwriting style is crucial for children to develop writing stamina and feel proud of their work. When handwriting is hard work and time-consuming, children's motivation to write can reduce, leading to a lack of practice that may further compound difficulties with writing.

We aim by year 6 for children to maintain legibility in their handwriting when writing at speed; most will join their handwriting. Years 2, 3 and 4 using ruled handwriting books to practise; Years 5 and 6 in their normal exercise books. Teachers model joined handwriting in all lessons and explicitly teach timetabled handwriting lessons every week: three times a week year 2 & 3, twice a week Year 4, at least once a week Year 5 and as an intervention as required, in Year 6.

In EYFS, we place emphasis upon fine motor skills and we use a range of resources to practise these basic skills and provide a range of experiences which focus on hand-eye co-ordination, gross and fine motor skills in order to develop the control necessary for mark making using a variety of resources. This moves into correct letter formation with a focus on both upper and lower case letters. In Reception and Year 1 letter formation and handwriting form part of the phonic lesson. Each time a new sound is introduced, children are taught the correct formation. In Year 2, children are taught to join their handwriting. Throughout KS2, children are expected to join their handwriting and handwriting sessions are timetable to help children develop a confident, legible and personal style.

Good handwriting and presentation by children is celebrated and rewarded. Presentation of work expectations are explained to children (differentiated by KS1 and KS2) and displayed prominently in all classrooms, alongside handwritten alphabet letter examples. A 'Pen Licence' may be earned by children (from years 4 and up) whose handwriting is neat, joined and legible and where the child's general standards of the presentation of their work is consistently good.

All children work towards the use of joined handwriting in their everyday writing tasks. Where progress on this appears to be slow, additional tailored handwriting support is organised and delivered; including additional practise in small group, homework or adaptation tools provided if required (e.g. writing slope, ergonomic pens & pencils, pencil grips in various shapes, wedged cushions etc).

Click here to see the progression grid for handwriting.

Spelling

From Nursery, children are introduced to the concept that words are broken down into sounds. Little Wandle Letters and Sounds visuals are visible, showing images to remind children of trickier digraphs they want to write. Children learn sounds and letters rigorously through the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds progression, which supports sounding out, segmenting and blending. Children having a go at writing by sounding out words and recording the sounds they hear. They have lots of practice at doing this, both in phonics sessions and at other times of the day.

<u>Purple Mash</u> spelling scheme supports teachers in picking and teaching the statutory words and focuses over the course of the academic year for years 2 to 6. The overview documents for each year group ensures the learning of spellings is progressive and meets both the statutory and non-statutory requirements in the National Curriculum. The scheme user guide can be found <u>here</u>. The scheme provides:

- Year Overview Documents: Each year group has a spelling overview document which is sectioned into six half termly blocks with 6 weeks per block. For each week, there is a spelling focus and associated list of words. These words are also found on the weekly slideshows. The spellings and their foci have been taken from the English National Curriculum (2014). The words include statutory learning focuses, suggested common exception words and high frequency words embedded across the terms.
- **Weekly slideshows** containing an introduction to the spelling rule or focus, key explanation and questioning, a suggested activity, to be completed on paper on individual whiteboards, where children work independently or in a small group and handy links to all additional resources.
- **Printable resources** and activities are provided in line with the spellings for each week.
- Weekly dictation exercises for teachers to use in assessing children's spellings.
- **Consolidation and recapping:** At the end of each term a consolidation week is planned and tricky spellings revised and assessed from that term.

In addition, teachers use **Nessy** videos to introduce new spelling patterns and rules videos as they outline the key learning points clearly and memorably.

Spellings are given to children from year 1 to year 6, to practise & learn weekly, usually in spelling 'rule' groups. Topic related vocabulary is learned in context and applied across the curriculum, including in reading and writing. Differentiated spellings are sent home at the start of each term, split into weekly lists for children to practise over the course of the school week and ensure they also understand the meanings of the words. There is a weekly spelling assessment in books and they are marked with appropriate rewards given by teachers. Spellings are assessed by the writing of individual words and/ or by dictated sentences depending on the confidence of individual children. Children are encouraged to apply the spellings in their own written work.

<u>Click here</u> to see the progression grid for spelling.

Inclusion

Our inclusive curriculum is designed to nurture the creativity of all pupils. We facilitate a very broad range of experiences through the immersive curriculum and use these to inspire writing and creativity. For instance we do not assume the children have visited or seen Egyptian tombs. We allow the children to create and build 'tombs' in school, as part of the Year 4 topic (DT) and then use this 'live' experience, to stimulate and inform their writing.

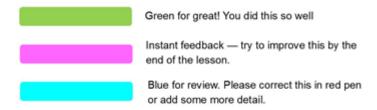
Marking and feedback: 'meaningful, manageable and motivating'

Feedback can come from peers as well as adults and can be verbal, written, or can be given through tests or via digital technology.

Written Marking:

- Teachers model the process to the children regularly so that they are clear what the different coloured markings on their books means and what is expected of them when they respond or edit their work
- Marking techniques engage children in assessment (e.g., re-write, edit or improve the piece of work)
- Teachers are expected to alter planning as a result of marking to ensure future lessons focus on common misconceptions or areas for improvement.
- ✓ Green and blue marking At the end of a piece of sustained writing, the teacher marks each child's work, looking for where the child has achieved the objective from the lesson. These pieces of writing may include writing in response to a text, a cohesive paragraph or passage in which children apply word and sentence level learning and unit final outcomes.
- ✓ The teacher highlights in green the part of the SC where the child has been successful. The teacher may then decide to pick out good examples in the text, also highlighting them in green.
- ✓ The teacher highlights in blue the part of the SC which the child needs to review. This may identify where the child has partly achieved the objective, where they have become confused and need more assistance or where they need direction towards improvement using a known technique. The teacher will highlight the part of the work in blue. Then the teacher may decide to put a blue mark at the bottom of the child's work and prompt the child to improve their work in one of the following ways:
- ✓ Children use red pens to edit and improve their work

Marking Codes:



Presentation:

The long date should be at the top of the page underlined. There should be a neatly underlined learning objective or title for every piece of work unless children are carrying on with a task from a previous lesson.

When appropriate, children should have the success criteria underneath the WALT which the children can evaluate their work against. Teachers use the traffic lights as a quick way to mark against the WALT and also for children to indicate their understanding.

Children should take care to ensure their work is clear to ensure they can identify their own mistakes or the teacher can. There should be no scribbling – mistakes are fine because you can learn from them – a clear line can be put through the work to enable the teacher to see the initial mistake. Children should use rulers when drawing lines and there should be no graffiti. Editing and marking their own work or peer marking, should be completed in a red pen.

Prompt codes should be used if a child has received significant amount of support during the lesson (e.g.: GW Guided Work - completed this work with a member of staff or as part of a guided group).

Impact:

Formative Assessment:

We believe in the power of immediate, personalised feedback, so teachers are encouraged to teach with a 'pen-in-hand' and provide regular specific verbal feedback during mini-plenaries as part of the lesson. Being next to a child and having a conversation in the moment about their work has far more impact than lengthy written feedback in many instances, so adults create classrooms where this dialogue is possible and powerful. Teachers refer to the key features, grammar and punctuation that is needed to be successful both as part of and reflect on the structure and language features of their own writing. At the end of a piece of extended writing, the teacher marks each child's work according to the learning objective.

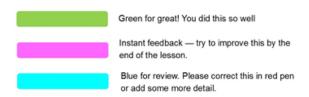
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Summative Assessment:

As pupils develop their literacy skills, teaching should respond to their changing needs. This requires teachers to collect accurate and up-to-date information about pupil's current capabilities, so that they can adapt their teaching accordingly to focus on exactly what the pupil needs to progress. This approach can be used to identify appropriate catch up support for struggling pupils, but can also be used to ensure that high attaining pupils continue to make good progress.

- ✓ Data drop three times a year followed up by pupil progress specific targeted interventions for children who are behind/whole class focuses
- ✓ Moderation in year groups (with support from leaders to ensure secure judgements) assessing writing using key year group objectives
- ✓ Moderation across the school using the same stimulus across a Key Stage.
- ✓ Moderation across local schools
- ✓ No More Marking moderate nationally

No More Marking:

To help with our moderation process, we take part in "Comparative Judgement" using No More Marking. There is one nationally standardised comparative judging window per year group per year.

- There is a set task, so everyone is writing against the same prompt and conditions are standardised for all pupils. Years 4 and 5 are given a non-fiction piece of writing, while the other year groups are given a story.
- Pupils' scripts are uploaded on specially barcoded paper.
- In each window you judge the work of your pupils as well as the work of pupils across the country. You never directly compare the results of your pupils with pupils from other schools. Rather, every 5th judgement is a moderation judgement where you compare the work of pupils from other schools.
- Writing is judged by comparing two pieces of writing on screen, side-by-side to determine which is best.
- All moderation judging is done anonymously by teachers working at other schools so there is no
 possibility for bias based on school or pupil characteristics. All schools and pupils are on a level playing
 field.
- Attainment is benchmarked and progress is calculated across your school, and nationally, with the information and statistics in the school's individual report.
- Once the national judging is complete, you get a full PDF report. Each pupil gets three key pieces of
 information: a scaled score, a writing age, and an indicative KS2 grade. You are provided with a full
 analysis of your school's results and the national picture, including breakdowns by gender and pupil
 premium.

Accuracy of judgments: Using "Comparative Judgement", teachers agree on Key Stage 2 writing grades 86% of the time, compared to 66% of the time when using the Teacher Assessment framework.

Monitoring

Through discussions, monitoring of teachers' medium term planning & looking at books, the subject leader and members of the SLT ensure there is:

- Clear, coherent sequencing of content which builds on prior learning
- There is progression and challenge appropriate to the year group
- A range of genres covering the national curriculum
- Regular teaching of spelling, punctuation and grammar appropriate and linked to the genre
- Consistency in the writing approach outlined in CPD
- Teachers are consistently following the feedback and marking policy
- There is also a review of the learning environment and how it is used to assist children's writing

Writing Outcomes: 2022-23

Year Group	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
R	Super Hero Me	People Who Help Us	5, 4, 3, 2, 1blast off!	Dinosaur Discovery	Around the World	Story Time
	Phase 1 and 2 Mark making Name writing Drawing Pencil control Daily stories	Phase 2 Handwriting Writing CVC words Sharing daily stories	Phase 3 Segmenting sounds for spelling Handwriting CVC words Beginning to say and write sentences Stories How to Catch a Star - narrative Olive Jeffers	Phase 3 Focus on hfw spellings Record sentences if children are ready Non fiction dinosaur facts writing	Phase 3 and 4 Focus on hfw spellings Record sentences Non fiction dinosaur facts writing Elena's Serenade and 1 other story Goram and Ghystan the Bristol Giants Narrative	Phase 3 and 4 Narrative Focus The Little Red Hen Going on a Bear Hunt The Very Hungry Caterpillar Talk Writing
1	Pesky Pirates	Bandages & Bravery	Let's Play	Life Below Water	Down on the Farm	Awesome Africa
	rhyme -rhyming clue instructions - how to find the treasure poetry - senses poem about sailing aboard the Matthew	recount - class timeline about Florence Nightingale letter - from soldier to Mary Seacole narrative - Daisy saves the day own version	explanation/rec ount - write up science experiment narrative - Traction Man	recount - trip to the aquarium report - sea creature narrative - Somebody swallowed Stanley	narrative - what the ladybird heard instructions - how to grow a plant letter - thank the farm for our trip	riddle - african animal report - non- chronological report on African country narrative - Tinga tinga tale
2	An Island Home	Fire! Fire!	Power of Pictures	Amazon Adventure	Food Heroes	Terrific Trees
	Recount - Letter to Katie Morag KM Delivers the Mail Narrative - Katie Morag and the Tiresome Ted Recount - Letter from Jamaica Gregory Cool	Poetry - Fireworks Recount/ Narrative - Vlad the Flea Recount - Burning houses Explanation - DT/Science Writing - Fire Engines	Instructions - How to trick a Twit The Twits Narrative - Chapter of the Twits	Non-chron reports Rainforest Animal Recount - My day at the Zoo Narrative Build up - Monkey see, Monkey do (Pie Corbett)	Diary - Wasted fruit Persuasive Writing - Letter to persuade shops to not waste food	Narrative - Jack and the Beanstalk Explanation - Science Writing - Growing plants
3	Savage Stone Age	To the Ends of the Earth	What the Romans Did for Us	Brilliant Light	Healthy Me	Oh, Grow Up!
	Instructions - How to wash a Woolly Mammoth - Michelle Robinson and Kate Hindley Narrative - Stone Age Boy	Narrative - The lonely polar bear Recount - diary (Shakleton's Journey - William Grill))	Persuasive letter - apply to the army Narrative - Escape from Pompeii - Christina Balit	Poetry - performance poetry/kennings /cinquins Narrative - myths and legends - How the Stars Came to Be - Poonam Mistry	Report - non - chronological report - Skeletons and Muscles Persuasive writing - buy product	Poetry - seasons poem - Summer is Here Narrative - The Promise - Nicola Davies Explanation - science write up
4	All Around Us	Awesome Ancient Egyptians	Imaginary Worlds	Listen Up!	Who Were the Anglo-Saxons?	Life Down Under

	Instructions Explanations the water cycle Recountwater and sanitation around the world	Newspapers Tutankhamun Historical Narrative inspired by Terry Deary story 'Plot on the Pyramid' Biography Cleopatra	Narrative Fantasies based on 'Journey' Playscripts imaginary worlds	PoetrySyllabic and Poetic Forms Persuasive writing advertisements	Poetryriddles and kennings linked to topic Narrative based on epic poem Beowulf Non-Chron Reports about Anglo-Saxon life	Persuasive writing leaflets/tourist guides Explanations animals and environments Narrative- Traditional Aboriginals
5	New York, New York	Out of this World	Greatest Greeks	Now that's what I call the 1960s	The Vikings are Coming	Climate Warriors
	Roadtrip cold write assessment Travel Brochure of New York Letter comparing NY and Bristol to a pen pal No More Marking cold write Poetry based on Skyboys by Deborah Hopkinson	Newspaper report on a planet discovery Narrative - Story of an alien on Earth cold write for assessment Presentation on another planet to rest of class	Recount as an Ancient Greek person Writing a playscript and performing it OR writing a persuasive speech OR Non-chronological report on a Greek god	Biography of significant 60s individual Scientific experiment writing cold write for assessment	Newspaper report on a Viking Raid Narrative - Beginning of a story focusing on building suspense	cold write for assessment Poetry about climate change Scientific Writing - changing materials Explanation text on life cycles
6	Bristol Street Art	Mysterious Mayans	My, How You've Changed	Peace, Politics & Protests	Me, Myself and	Curious Crime
	Discussion/bala nced argument - Colston Statue Newspaper Article - Banksy	Narrative - Myth Non- Chronological reports - Daily Life (for museum)	Biography - Darwin Letter - recount of life on the HMS Beagle	Persuasive Speech - Extending school hours Diary Entry - Suffragettes	Narrative - A Monster Calls Explanation - RSE	Narrative - Detective Stories Recount - Police Report

Additional opportunities linked to assessment and moderation

Year Group	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
1		Writing assessment -	No More	Writing assessment -		Writing assessment -
		based on a stimulus	Marking	based on a stimulus		based on a stimulus
•		Writing assessment -	No More	Writing assessment -		Writing assessment -
2		based on a stimulus	Marking	based on a stimulus		based on a stimulus
3 No More Marking	Writing assessment -		Writing assessment -		Writing assessment -	
	Marking	based on a stimulus		based on a stimulus		based on a stimulus
4		Writing assessment -	No More	Writing assessment -		Writing assessment -
		based on a stimulus	Marking	based on a stimulus		based on a stimulus
5		No More Marking Writing assessment - based on a stimulus		Writing assessment - based on a stimulus		Writing assessment - based on a stimulus
6		Writing assessment - based on a stimulus		No More Marking Writing assessment - based on a stimulus		Writing assessment - based on a stimulus