

Our Writing Curriculum: Parent-Friendly Summary

This guide explains what your child will learn in writing each year. Skills build steadily so children become confident, creative and accurate writers by the end of primary school.

Foundations (Nursery & Reception)

What children learn:

- How print works (left to right, top to bottom).
- That words can be written down and have meaning.
- Early phonics to help them hear and write sounds.
- How to write simple labels, captions and short sentences.
- How stories work – with a beginning, problem and ending.

What children practise writing:

- Simple stories linked to familiar themes (friends, animals, superheroes).
 - Information such as posters or recounts of events.
 - Instructions (e.g., how to grow a plant).
 - Poems about animals or the sea.
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Year 1

What children learn:

- How to build short sentences.
- Using 'and' to join ideas.
- Using capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks.
- Writing in order to retell events or stories.

What children practise writing:

- Stories such as finding tales, traditional tales and portal stories.
 - Recounts (e.g., letters, postcards).
 - Basic information texts.
 - Instructions and recipes.
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Year 2

What children learn:

- How to extend sentences using *when, if, because, that*.
- How to make writing more detailed using noun phrases (e.g. “the tiny, frightened mouse”).
- Using past and present tense correctly.
- Using commas in lists and apostrophes for possession and contractions.

What children practise writing:

- Longer stories including finding, return and invention narratives.
 - Recounts (diaries, letters).
 - Information texts about animals or topics.
 - Instructions and explanations.
 - Early persuasive writing.
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Year 3

What children learn:

- How to choose “a” or “an” correctly.
- Using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to show time, place and cause.
- How paragraphs work and how to organise information.
- How to punctuate speech using inverted commas.

What children practise writing:

- Story types such as fables, approach-threat stories, settings and mysteries.
 - Newspaper reports and letters.
 - Information leaflets and explanation texts.
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Year 4

What children learn:

- How to build more descriptive sentences using expanded noun phrases.
- How to begin sentences with fronted adverbials (e.g. “Later that day…”).
- Using pronouns to avoid repetition and improve flow.
- Using commas after fronted adverbials and apostrophes for plural possession.

What children practise writing:

- A wide variety of narratives including myths, outsider stories, twisted tales and refugee narratives.
- Diary entries, newspaper reports and biographies.
- Persuasive letters.

Year 5

What children learn:

- How to express possibility using modal verbs (might, could, must).
- How to use relative clauses to add detail (e.g. “The boy *who lived next door...*”).
- How to create cohesion across paragraphs.
- Using brackets, dashes and commas for parenthesis.

What children practise writing:

- Complex story types (dilemma stories, survival narratives, character-focused tales).
 - Formal letters, reports and explanations.
 - Balanced arguments.
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Year 6

What children learn:

- How to use more formal structures and vocabulary.
- When to use the passive voice (e.g. “The window was broken”).
- How to use the subjunctive form in formal writing.
- Advanced punctuation: colons, semi-colons, dashes, hyphens and bullet points.
- How to link ideas smoothly across paragraphs.

What children practise writing:

- Flashback narratives, dual narratives, discovery stories and endurance tales.
 - Biographies, newspaper reports and speeches.
 - Explanations, persuasive letters and discussions.
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How learning progresses across the school

- **Children first learn to communicate simple ideas**, then gradually build accuracy, detail and creativity.
- **Grammar skills grow year by year**, helping children write with clarity and confidence.
- **Writing purposes expand**, so by Year 6 children can inform, persuade, explain, discuss and narrate at a high level.
- **Vocabulary widens**, enabling precise and powerful writing.