

## English for the Year 4 Learner in St Paul's



### **Approach**

At St Paul's Catholic Primary School, we aim to ensure that all children learn to read, write and communicate successfully. We want all pupils to achieve their full potential so that they not only develop these important life skills and take their place in society, but also that they learn to love reading, writing and communicating and fully appreciate what joy these skills can bring.

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.

### **Y4 English Coverage**

The Year 4 English curriculum includes:

Myths; writing and performing plays; Story settings; Stories with a theme; Persuasion; Explanations; discussion; poetry and reports

**Key poets/authors your children will encounter are:** Geraldine McCaughrean, CS Lewis, David Walliams, Benjamin Zephaniah.

### **Curriculum Content**

#### **Speaking and Listening**

Children will be taught to discuss their learning and to develop speaking skills. They will become more familiar with and confident in, using language in a variety of situations, for a range of audiences and purposes. They will, for example

- Develop their understanding of a subject through discussions, learning to give their opinions and listen to other view points
- Speak clearly and in different ways for drama, formal presentations and debate.

#### **Reading**

This part of the curriculum is broken down into 'word reading' and 'comprehension'.

In word reading children will be taught to read and understand the meaning of new words using the skills they have learned previously and building on learning in year 3. Children will develop the fluency and stamina to read longer texts and the focus for the Year 4 learner is comprehension. Children will be taught key skills to enable them to read, understand and enjoy a wide range of books.

They will, for example:

- Summarise the main ideas of a text
- Justify their opinion of particular characters
- Discuss ideas that are not obviously described in a text eg 'Explain why the character may have felt like this.'
- Note how the author chooses language to create a mood or atmosphere
- Identify the structures or features of particular non-fiction texts

This is taught through guided reading sessions, whole class texts, games, comprehension lessons and using exciting physical reading strategies. It is really important that children read regularly at home and talk about what they read.

<http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/> is a useful website which reviews new literature for children.

Key Texts: Recommended by Herts for Learning for Year 4 are:

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| The Orchard Book of Greek Myths, Geraldine McCaughrean<br>Greek Myths - Marcia Williams<br>Blackberry Blue and other fairy tales - Jamila Gavin<br>The Boy and the Cloth of Dreams - Jenny Koralek<br>East O the Sun and West O the Moon - PJ Lynch<br>Journey by Aaron Becker<br>The Firework Maker's Daughter - Phillip Pullman<br>The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien<br>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone – J.K. Rowling<br>The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe – C.S. Lewis<br>Peter Pan in Scarlet - Geraldine McCaughrean<br>The Wooden Horse - Geraldine McCaughrean<br>Mission to marathon – Geoffrey Trease<br>Secret History of Tom Trueheart – Ian Beck | Set in other countries<br>Jane & Lewis Kurtz E.B. Mamo on the mountain – (Ethopia)<br>The true story of Balto - Natalie Staniford (Arctic)<br>Anna Hibiscus – Atinuke (Nigeria)<br>The Big Book of Betsey Biggalow - Malorie Blackman (West Indies)<br>Sophie and the Albino Camel - Stephen Davies (Sahara Desert)<br>Elephant child – Mary Ellis (African savannah)<br>Grandpa's Indian Summer - Jamila Gavin (India)<br>The Colour of Home – Mary Hoffman (Somalia)<br>A fistful of pearls and other tales from Iraq – Elizabeth Laird |
| Stories set in imaginary worlds<br>How to Train Your Dragon - Cressida Cowell<br>How To Train Your Dragon<br>How to speak dragonese - Cressida Cowell<br>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - C S Lewis<br>The Dream Master - Theresa Breslin<br>Aquila (science-fiction) - Andrew Norriss<br>The Widow's Broom - Chris Van Allsburg<br>Dragon's Child - Jenny Nimmo<br>Seth and the Strangers - Jenny Nimmo  | Historical settings<br>Billy The Kid – Michael Morpurgo<br>Street Child - Berlie Doherty<br>Across the Roman Wall - Theresa Breslin<br>The Time Travelling Cat - Julia Jarman<br>The Roman Eagle - Julia Jarman<br>The Tudor Treasure - Julia Jarman<br>The Egyptian Goddess - Julia Jarman<br>The Aztec Sacrifice - Julia Jarman<br>The Viking Terror - Julia Jarman<br>Roger's War - Robert Swindells<br>Meet me by the Steelmen - Teresa Tomlinson   |

## Writing

Writing is developed through teaching the following:

**Spelling:** Children should learn to spell new words correctly and have opportunities to practise spelling skills. They will be taught spelling patterns and conventions, building on the spellings taught in Year 3. They will continue to practise and use the words included in Appendix 1 of the National Curriculum for years 3 & 4. Spelling rules need to be learned and reinforced. Please help your child to learn their spelling list and also learn the rule that applies.

**Handwriting:** This will continue to be taught, with the aim of increasing children's consistency and fluency throughout their independent writing.

**Composition** (structure): This includes vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. To develop their composition skills, the children will be taught to

- Plan, draft, compose, edit and evaluate their writing
- Organise their writing into clear paragraphs
- Use an increasing range of sentence structures
- Expand sentences by adding detail
- Write for a range of purposes and audiences as part of their work across the curriculum. In year 4 this will include (cross curricular example, schools to insert their own)

Grammar will be taught throughout the writing process and teachers will follow the terms and concepts of Appendix 2 of the National Curriculum.

Should you wish for a more detailed explanation, please follow this link to the [Primary National Curriculum document](#)