

English Curriculum Overview - Year 4

Unit		Details
Autumn One	Figurative Vocabulary Character Description - Adverbs - Fronted Adverbials Story Structure - Tenses - Expanded noun phrases	As pupils settle into Year 4, they learn a beautiful poem about dragons with a focus on description of characters using figurative language to create atmosphere. Following on from this, pupils learn about the Manchester Ridgeback spotted flying over Salford, so that they can write their own innovative information report. As the pupils continue to revisit story types and the non-fiction genre from previous years, they plan their work by discussing similar writing so that they can learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar. They also continue to develop their understanding that writing is for a purpose and an audience and that the structure of their writing will change accordingly. Then using this prior knowledge and experience, pupils draft and write by organising paragraphs around a theme. Once they have proof read and evaluated, pupils are encouraged to read their own writing aloud using appropriate intonation and control. Handwriting continues to be taught through Oxford Owl with the focus on increasing legibility, consistency and quality. Learning an exciting time slip story gives pupils an opportunity to develop these skills further, focusing on the structure of a finding tale, the correct use of tense and expanded noun phrases. Their non-fiction unit sees pupils developing spy gadgets and then using their persuasive skills to create an advert to sell their innovative devices.
Autumn Two		
Spring One	Suspense & Action - Coordinating conjunctions - Sentence types Description & Setting Suspense - Fronted Adverbials - Tenses	Pupils become famous detectives as they search for a missing brooch, in a losing tale which gives them the opportunity to build action and suspense into their writing using expanded noun phrases. They continue to plan writing by discussing and recording ideas, then compose sentences orally using rich vocabulary, before starting to draft their work by organising paragraphs around a theme. Pupils continue to create and develop their settings, characters and plots, understanding that purpose and audience underpins the form their writing should take. In Science, they use this and their understanding of information texts to plan and write about the water cycle. Pupils learn an atmospheric tale of fear about an ice forest, with a focus on developing suspense and tension with the use of rich, exciting vocabulary and appropriate choice of sentence structure. Pupils are then introduced to the Spiderwick Chronicles and meet elves and dwarves, as they continue to develop their use of suspense and action in writing a diary recount.
Spring Two		
Summer One	Dialogue - Adverbs - Fronted Adverbials Openings & Endings - Subordinating conjunctions	We meet Arthur, who lives near a forest filled with magical creatures. Although small, Arthur embarks on many quests to save his village in a rags to riches tale. The focus for this unit is dialogue and the use of fronted adverbials and adverbs. Pupils write their own rags to riches tale using all they have learned, including speech. Pupils will now be planning with developing independence, drafting and writing narratives by creating characters, settings and plots, using rich, varied vocabulary and a range of sentence structures. They will edit with confidence and evaluate their work and others', suggesting improvements. In handwriting they continue to increase legibility, consistency and equality. Pupils then learn and perform the classic poem by Walter De La Mare, the Listener. The poem is filled with suspense and requires the children to use their skills of reading aloud with appropriate intonation, tone and volume. The final text in Year 4 is about a young boy who lives on an Island in Terra Del Fuego in South America. The focus is story openings and endings, and the use of subordinating conjunctions, however the outcome for this unit is the introduction of debate, as a formal discussion where people have different views. The children will look for facts and develop their opinions so that they can present them to an audience, but also to listen to the opposing opinion ready to offer responses.
Summer Two		