

The Year 2 Learner at SS Alban & Stephen Infants

In English, children are taught **speaking, listening, reading** and **writing** skills through studying a variety of styles of writing (genres). They learn to read and understand the text, then practise the skills of the style of writing (including grammar) and apply into their own writing.

The Year 2 English curriculum consists of modules on narrative, non-fiction and poetry, although much of our learning crosses curriculum areas e.g. instructions on how to build an electrical circuit, an eyewitness account of the Great Fire of London or creating small books about the events of Holy Week.

Beginning with traditional tales, children examine story structure and language before writing their own stories. We might be inspired by a visiting theatre or myths and stories from around the world during Expressive Arts week, when our whole school learns about the literature, music and culture of other countries.

We recommend reading a wide variety of texts to encourage a love of reading. All reading should be valued, including comics, annuals and reading from screens, as well as books. Parents are encouraged not to rely exclusively on school books but to support their children in choosing texts to share & enjoy at home.

Speaking and Listening

The children will become more confident in using language in different situations, for example:

- Listening to and expressing views about a wide range of books and poems
- Retelling familiar stories and discuss the order of events
- Clarifying the meaning of words and extending vocabulary
- Joining in with discussions, asking questions and explaining their understanding
- Changing their speech for different purposes and audiences such as role play or performances

Reading

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

Pupils will be taught to read words fluently and speedily, using phonics and other taught strategies, as well as developing a growing bank of words that they recognise instantly. They will also be taught to check their own reading makes sense, and to re-read to correct when something doesn't make sense.

It is crucial that children understand what they read and can discuss it confidently, as well as read the words on the page. They are encouraged to:

- Make links between their own experiences and the story
- Self-correct if what they are reading doesn't make sense

- Answer questions about a text, including questions where the answer is not obvious eg 'Why did the character say that?'
- Work out why things have happened in a story
- Read a variety of non-fiction and poetry books
- Read text presented in different formats e.g. on computer or i-pad screens and keyboards, posters, comics or using different styles (capitals & different fonts, both written & printed)

Writing

Children will develop their writing through the following areas:

Spelling:

- Continue to spell words using phonics
- Learn commonly used whole words that are difficult to sound out
- Understand more patterns and rules

Handwriting:

- Form letters that are consistent in size
- Leave appropriate spaces between words
- Use a fluent cursive style with correctly formed letters

Composition:

- Plan what they are going to write
- Re-read and check for sense and accuracy
- Write for a range of purposes
- Develop a wide vocabulary, knowing & using English terms e.g. verb, adjective, adverb
- Use accurate punctuation, with a variety of openers and joining words in extended sentences
- Draft, edit & improve work before presenting, checking against success criteria

For further information on all aspects of learning in Year 2, please refer to <http://www.ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk/ourwork/year2.html>