

Your child in Year 1

We want all of our children to develop their writing skills so that they can write fluently, adapting their language and style for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences with a wide knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

At Thorns, we develop children's spelling and handwriting skills through specific phonics, spelling and handwriting sessions. Writing composition skills are taught through English sessions and developed in all areas of learning.

We would also encourage children to develop these skills at home so it is important that children learn any spellings that have been sent home.

At Thorns, we are developing a curriculum approach that is underpinned by Chris Quigley Essentials ©; in this way we aim to develop mastery and depth of learning, rather than a 'tick list' approach. For this reason, you will notice that expectations for children look the same in years 1 & 2, years 3 & 4 and years 5 & 6. This is deliberate and does not mean that children do the same things in each of two years, it simply means that they have opportunities to revisit learning and in this way develop it further.

During their time in school we want the children to become excellent writers.

Essential characteristics of excellent writers:

- *The ability to write fluently and with interesting detail on a number of topics throughout the curriculum.*
- *A vivid imagination which makes readers engage with and enjoy their writing*
- *A highly developed vocabulary and an excellent knowledge of writing techniques to extend details or description.*
- *Well organised and structured writing, which includes a variety of sentence structures.*
- *Excellent transcription skills that ensure their writing is well presented and punctuated, spelled correctly and neat.*
- *A love of writing and an appreciation of its educational, cultural and entertainment values.*

The children will regularly be given opportunities to progress towards proficiency in the following objectives:

Essential learning objectives

- *To write with purpose*
- *To use imaginative description*
- *To organise writing appropriately*
- *To use paragraphs*
- *To use sentences appropriately*
- *To present neatly*
- *To spell correctly*
- *To punctuate accurately*
- *To analyse writing*
- *To present writing*

Essentials for progress: Milestone 1

To write with purpose

- *Say first and then write to tell others about ideas*
- *Write for a variety of purposes*
- *Play by talking about ideas and writing notes*
- *Use some of the characteristic features of the type of writing used*
- *Write, review and improve*

To use imaginative description

- *Use adjectives to add detail*
- *Use names of people, places and things*
- *Use well-chosen adjectives*
- *Use nouns and pronouns for variety*
- *Use adverbs for extra detail*

To organise writing appropriately

- *Re-read writing to check it makes sense*
- *Use the correct tenses*
- *Organise writing in line with its purpose*

To use paragraphs

- *Write about more than one idea*
- *Group related information*

To use sentences appropriately

- *Write so that other people can understand the meaning of sentences*
- *Sequence sentences to form a short narrative*
- *Convey ideas sentence by sentence*
- *Join sentences with conjunctions and connectives*
- *Vary the way sentences begin*

To present neatly

- *Sit correctly and hold a pencil correctly*
- *Begin to form lower case letters correctly*
- *Form capital letters*
- *Form digits 0—9*
- *Understand letters that are formed in similar ways*
- *Form lower case letters of a consistent size*
- *Begin to join some letters*
- *Write capital letters and digits of consistent size*
- *Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters*

To spell correctly

- *Spell words containing 40+ learned phonemes*
- *Spell common exception words*
- *Name letters of the alphabet in order*
- *Use letter names to describe spellings of words*
- *Add prefixes and suffixes, learning the rule for adding s and es as a plural marker for nouns and the third person singular marker for verbs*
- *Use the prefix un*

- Use suffixes where no change to the spelling of the root word is needed
- Use and apply spelling rules
- Write simple sentences dictated by the teacher
- Spell by segmenting words into phonemes and represent them with the correct graphemes
- Learn some new ways to represent phonemes
- Spell contraction words correctly (can't, don't)
- Add suffixes to spell longer words (-ment, -ness, -ful, and -less)

To punctuate accurately

- Leave spaces between words
- Use the word 'and' to join words and sentences
- Begin to punctuate using a capital letter for the name of people, places, the days of the week and I
- Use both familiar and new punctuation correctly including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contracted forms
- Use sentences with different forms: statement, question, exclamation and command
- Use extended noun phrases to describe and specify (e.g. the blue butterfly)
- Use subordination (when, if, that or because) and coordination (or, and, but)
- Use some features of standard written English

To analyse writing

- Discuss writing with the teacher and other pupils
- Use and understand grammatical terminology in discussing writing

To present writing

- Read aloud writing clearly enough to be heard by peers and the teacher
- Read aloud writing with some intonation

In school, we will ensure that we take every opportunity to encourage the children to develop as writers.

Essential opportunities

Narrative

- Write stories set in places pupils have been.
- Write stories and plays that use the language of fairy tales and traditional tales.
- Write stories with imaginary settings.
- Write stories that mimic significant authors.
- Write narrative diaries.

Non-fiction

- Write labels.
- Write lists.
- Write captions.
- Write instructions.
- Write recounts.
- Write glossaries.
- Present information.
- Write non-chronological reports.

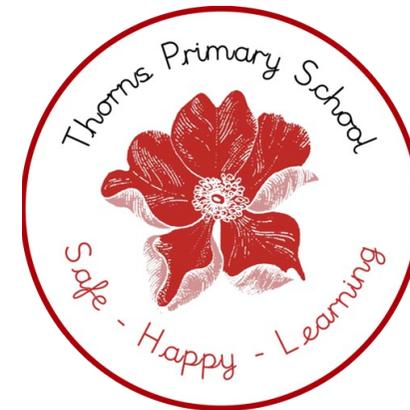
Poetry

- Write poems that use pattern, rhyme and description.
- Write nonsense and humorous poems and limericks.

Thorns Primary School

WRITING

YEAR 1



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Please keep this reference guide safe as it gives you an overview of the curriculum coverage for your child's year group.