



The New English Curriculum at St Peter's School

Information for Parents

The Year 4 Learner

Approach

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) before applying them to their own writing.

The Primary National Curriculum statements will be taught through the modules below.

Y4 English Coverage

The Year 4 English curriculum consists of the following modules.

- Myths
- Play writing
- Story Settings
- Dilemma Stories
- Stories with a theme
- Report
- Persuasion
- Discussion
- Explanation
- Riddles
- Narrative Poetry
- Poetry Appreciation

Your child will encounter the work of key poets/authors such as:

- Geraldine McCaughrean
- Phillip Pullman
- Michael Morpurgo
- C S Lewis
- Malorie Blackman
- Robert Swindells
- Ted Hughes
- Phillipa Pearce



Recommended reading list (a variety is best):

A Caribbean Dozen	John Agard & Grace Nicholls
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	John Steptoe
Beowulf	Kevin Crossley-Holland
The Firework-Maker's Daughter	Philip Pullman
The Dragon's Child	Jenny Nimmo
The Ghost Blades	Anthony Masters
Sara, Plain and Tall	Patricia MacLachlan
Smart Girls	Robert Leeson
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky	Susan Jeffers & Chief Seattle
Robi Dobi	Madhur Jaffrey
The Reluctant Dragon	Kenneth Grahame
Flow	Pippa Goodhart
Dragon Poems	John Foster & Korky Paul
The Crazy Shoe Shuffle	Gillian Cross
The Sea Piper	Helen Cresswell
The Chocolate Touch	Patrick Skene Catling
Spacebaby	Henrietta Branford
Gregory Cool	Caroline Binch
A Pot of Gold	Jill Bennett
Fog Hounds Wind Cat Sea Mice	Joan Aiken
The Clothes Horse	Allan Ahlberg
It Was A Dark and Stormy Night	Allan Ahlberg
The Dancing Bear	Michael Morpurgo
The Demon Headmaster	Gillian Cross
Dog So Small	Phillipa Pearce
Emil and the Detectives	Erich Kastner
The Iron Man	Ted Hughes
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe	C S Lewis
Little House on the Prairie	Laura Ingalls Wilder
Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh	Robert C O'Brien
Stig of the Dump	Clive King
Swallows and Amazons	Arthur Ransome
A Child's Garden of Verse	Robert Louis Stevenson
Greek Myths for Young Children	Marcia Williams
The Orchard Book of Creation Stories	Margaret Mayo & Louise Brierley



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

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.

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 persuasive writing about rainforests in Science and writing a Greek myth in History.

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](#)