



YEAR 4 WRITING EXPECTATIONS

Before students leave Year 4 they should be able to...

COMPOSITION

- Plan their own writing and write a range of narratives and non-fiction pieces using consistent and appropriate structure for purpose and audience.
- Describe settings, characters and plots in details.
- Vary sentences in structure and openings.
- Organise paragraphs into themes.
- Use paragraphs consistently.
- Proofread work for errors and make necessary improvements.

GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

- Write a combination of simple, compound and complex sentences for effect.
- Create settings, characters and plots by using ambitious word choices and expanded noun phrases.
- Use a range of grammatical devices for variety and to add cohesion to writing: subordinate clauses; a range of conjunctions (when, if, because, before); adverbs (then, next, soon); prepositions (before, after); fronted adverbials and pronouns.
- Use a range of different punctuation (!? "" , ') including singular and plural possessive apostrophe.
- Maintain the correct tense throughout a piece of writing (past simple, past progressive, present simple, present progressive, past perfect, present perfect).

TRANSCRIPTION

- Spell all prefixes, suffixes common exception words and homophones correctly.
- Write in neatly joined cursive handwriting consistently and fluently.
- Use a dictionary efficiently to check spellings.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- Grouping sentences into paragraphs is a skill taught in Year 3 and Year 4 and it's one that many children find tricky. Encourage your child to use books and the internet to research a subject they are interested in e.g. pandas. They should make notes and sort the information they find into different categories e.g. where pandas live, what they eat, what they look like etc. They should then use their notes to help them write an information text about their subject of interest. They can use the headings from their notes as paragraph or section headings to organise their writing.
- Another way to help your child improve their writing, is to encourage them to write longer sentences by joining information with words such as because, so and therefore e.g. Pandas are an endangered species so we need to look after them carefully. You could encourage them to check that they don't repeat the name of their subject (e.g. panda) by using pronouns such as they, it, their to replace the repeated word e.g. Giant pandas live in China. They are black and white. Their favourite food is bamboo.