



Westfield Infant School Spotlight on Writing



What is Writing and how is it taught?

At Westfield Infant School Writing is integrated into all aspects of our inclusive and aspirational curriculum. Additionally, we explicitly teach Writing in line with our Talk 4 Writing scheme which aims to nurture children's writing skills by emphasising the importance of language development, creativity and expression. Through this approach, children are encouraged to explore various writing genres, develop their storytelling abilities, and build confidence in their foundational writing skills. This includes all aspects of the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Writing National Curriculum.

How do we support all learners to access the subject?

Strengthening is integrated for all children to ensure every child can access and progress their Writing skills and knowledge. Story Maps are used throughout the school to help children develop their understanding of how stories are written, to capture and organise information effectively in different genres and to orally rehearse their writing pictorially. This enables any barriers to be removed to ensure all children can develop an understanding and love for story-telling. Furthermore, all classrooms have sound mats and tricky word mats on tables for children to access as a visual aid for spelling. This is reinforced with pictorial vocabulary mats in Year 1 and Year 2 to give a visual definition and spelling for new or unfamiliar words. We follow the school's progression map to ensure children have constantly got the opportunity to not only progress but also over-learn and master their foundational writing skills.

How do we assess the children's knowledge and understanding in this subject?

Within Year 1 and Year 2 children follow a 'cold write' to 'hot write' sequence within a half term. The children will start with a 'cold write' to help their teacher assess prior knowledge and learning gaps that need to be focused on within that half term. There will then be a period of learning based on these findings over 5-6 weeks before the children's 'hot write' in which the progress is assessed. Writing follows the school's marking policy which means we use 'pink for think' and 'green is good' highlighters to feedback to the children about what they're doing really well and also areas for them to improve on. The 'pink for think' allows for teachers to model correctly before the children fix and edit their work. Additionally, each year group has a 'standards folder' to ensure children are on track throughout the year to reach their writing goal which are looked at termly to help keep children on track and give them extra support if needed. Westfield takes part in external and internal moderation to ensure accurate assessment is taking place. At the end of Year 2 the children's writing is assessed against the National Curriculum's teacher assessment framework for a working towards, expected or greater depth child within writing at the end of Key Stage 1.

How do we involve parents and carers in this subject?

Story map videos are uploaded to Class Dojo at the beginning of each half term to inform parents of our 'hot write' goal. All the children are encouraged to teach their parents and carers the story map to help them familiarise themselves and over-learn it. Also, the children have a Little Wandle phonics sheet sent home weekly to practise their new sounds and tricky words based on their phonetical

knowledge. This extra practise at home benefits the children's writing as well as reading as the Little Wandle learning is always linked into what they're writing each term.

How do we promote wider opportunities for this subject area?

As stated above, Writing is entwined within all aspects of the children's school day. The children are also encouraged to take part in writing opportunities nationally such as the Young Writers poetry competitions. Within our most recent entries; children across all year groups had some of their acrostic poems selected to be published within a poetry book.