



Writing at  
Round Hill

# Introduction

- At Round Hill we aim to provide a curriculum which enables children to become confident, creative, independent writers.
- Writing opportunities are applied through a topic theme with a Literacy focus.
- Literacy lessons incorporate 'Talk for Writing' strategies and grammar is taught discretely through 'Rainbow Grammar.'
- Spelling is taught using the Grammar and Spelling Bug scheme.
- Effort and progress in writing is celebrated through the Awesome Authors award.

# Early writing

- Writing is one strand of the Literacy Early Learning Goal, along with comprehension and word reading.
- In EYFS, daily teacher-led sessions develop writing skills through lots of physical and fine motor activities. These tasks help children to build strength and establish the correct pencil grip.
- Literacy lessons include lots of oral activities and games, building up to letter, word and sentence writing over the year.
- Free writing and fine motor activities are set out as part of the continuous provision each day so that children also have the opportunity to develop their writing skills independently.

# Phonics

- In KS1, phonics is taught daily through the Phonics Bug Phonics scheme. This scheme simultaneously teaches the segmentation of words for spelling and develops phonemic awareness skills.
- Children are taught the letters and corresponding sounds they make, just before the introduction of words that contain these letters. To read these words, children are taught to pronounce the individual sounds associated with the letters they see, and then to blend them together to form the word.
- Some children may require further support and continue with phonics sessions as they move into Key Stage 2.

# Spelling

- At Round Hill, we teach spelling as part of phonics lessons (Key Stage 1) and in discrete spelling sessions (Key Stage 2).
- We model a variety of strategies to learning spellings including mnemonics, games and dictionary tasks.
- Children are given the opportunity to explore patterns and word families and practice applying different spelling rules in their independent writing.
- We follow the Grammar and Spelling Bug scheme which incorporates key patterns, common exception words (Key Stage 1) and statutory spellings from the English Programme of Study.

# Talk for Writing

- The Talk for Writing approach enables children to read and write independently for a variety of audiences and purposes within different subjects.
- A key feature is that children internalise the language structures needed to write through ‘talking the text’, as well as close reading.
- In addition to lots of talk time, children develop story maps and ‘box the text’ to support them in their own writing.
- The approach moves from dependence towards independence, with the teacher using shared and guided teaching to develop the ability in children to write creatively and powerfully.

# Rainbow Grammar

- At Round Hill, we teach grammar through the use of Rainbow Grammar. This programme uses colours to help children learn and recognize different sentence structures.
- The colours are introduced in year 1. The initial colours are green (the subject of the sentence), orange (the predicate, or action part, of the sentence) and red (punctuation).
- Each year, children build on this grammatical knowledge as we introduce other parts of a sentence, such as conjunctions, fronted adverbials and speech.

# Creative writing

- At Round Hill, we recognize the importance of providing opportunities for children to develop their own ideas and creativity.
- ‘Free writing’ time allows all children to write about their own ideas and interests and express them creatively.
- Children choose to write in any style. Comics, stories, fact files, match reports and poems are some of the written pieces that children often produce.
- Feedback has shown that children who often struggle with writing value the opportunity to write about a subject of their choice and more confident writers enjoy the freedom of writing without structure; developing their own style.

# Resources

- A range of additional resources are used in class to support children with writing.
- These include Nessy, Phonics Play and Treasure House spelling.

# Supporting your child at home

- Research has shown that good readers make good writers; read regularly with your child, discussing the author's language choices and why this is effective.
- Encourage your child to write about what they enjoy. This could be creating a football magazine, writing instructions for a new online game, writing a story based on something they like or keeping a diary of their daily activities.
- Practise spellings with your child each week, discussing the pattern or theme. The spellings are on the school website.
- Links to a range of websites which support writing can be found on the 'Curriculum' part of the school website.