

English in Year 2



As children move through Key Stage 1, the curriculum intends that almost all children will secure the basic skills of decoding so that they can become fluent readers. As their reading confidence grows they can begin to write their own ideas down.

Decoding is the ability to read words aloud by identifying the letter patterns and matching them to sounds. We use RWI and Letters and Sounds to teach these phonics skills. Once children are able to 'decode' the writing, they can then start to make sense of the words and sentences in context. Watch out for hard-to-decode words such as 'one' and 'the'. These just have to be learned by heart. We call these Red, HFW or Tricky words.

At the end of Year 2, all children will sit the National Curriculum Tests for Key Stage 1. These will include two short reading tests, a grammar and punctuation test, and a spelling test of ten words. The spelling test will include HFW and ones with a range of spelling patterns.

Speaking and Listening

In Year 2 some focuses include:

- Articulate and justify answers and opinions
- Give well-structured explanations and narratives, for example in show-and-tell activities for our creative curriculum projects

Reading Skills

- Read words aloud without blending or rehearsal (Fred in your head)
- Learn letter patterns so that decoding becomes fluent and secure
- Blend letter sounds, including alternative patterns, e.g. recognising 'ue' as the 'oo' sound- We call two letters that make one sound 'special friends'
- Read aloud words which contain more than one syllable
- Recognise common suffixes, such as -ing, -ed and -less
- Read words which don't follow patterns, HFW such as 'one' and 'who'
- Become familiar with a wide range of fairy stories and traditional tales
- Discuss favourite words and the meaning of new words
- Check that what has been read makes sense, and self-correct reading
- Make predictions about what might happen next in a story

Children will be expected to read aloud books which are appropriate for their reading ability. During Year 2 their increasing knowledge of decoding should allow them to read a wide range of children's books. In Year 2 children have access to a book corner, colour banded books and a swap box in class. We also have a link to Oxford Owl where there are over 250 free online children's books available.

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/library-page>

Writing Skills

- Form letters of the appropriate size, using capital letters where appropriate
- Use appropriate spaces between words when writing
- Begin to use joins between letters where needed
- Learn to spell some common homophones, recognising the difference between them; Homophones are words which sound the same, such as 'blue' and 'blew', or 'one' and 'won'
- Use the possessive apostrophe in simple phrases, such as 'the boy's football'.
- Write about real events and personal experiences
- Plan out writing in advance, including by writing down key words
- Re-read writing to check that it makes sense and to make corrections, including punctuation
- Use question marks, exclamation marks, apostrophes and commas in lists
- Use the present and past tenses correctly in writing i.e. was/were
- Spell longer words by breaking them into their sound parts, t-ea-ch-er
- Begin to write longer sentences by using conjunctions, such as 'and', 'yet', 'but', 'if' or 'because'

We use Nelson Handwriting to teach letter joins in Year 2:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Reading, try this at home:

- Read books together, taking turns and talking about the parts you liked
- Read to your child so that they learn to emulate inflection and builds word memory.
- Encourage your child to look at and discuss non-fiction books, for example encyclopedias, dictionaries or an atlas.
- Encourage your child to look up words they do not know or find synonyms in a thesaurus for those they do.
- If your child develops a liking for a certain author, find as many of their books as possible. Encourage them to write a book review of their favourite book.
- If you have a blackboard, write simple messages for your child to read
- Use the swap box to take new books home

Writing, try this at home:

- Make writing part of a game: play shops, schools or cafes and make writing fun
- Buy your child their own notebook to write stories or make a fact file about their favourite animal or football team
- Start a scrapbook and encourage your child to have a go at captions and labels
- Use different coloured pencils/pens for spelling and sentence practice.

EYFS High Frequency Words			
a	all	am	and
are	at	away	big
can	cat	come	dad
day	dog	for	get
go	going	he	I
in	is	it	like
look	me	mum	my
no	of	on	play
said	see	she	the
they	this	to	up
was	we	went	yes
you			

Y1-2 High Frequency Words			
about	after		your
again	an	another	as
back	ball	be	because
bed	been	boy	brother
but	by	call	called
came	can't	could	did
dig	do	don't	door
down	first	from	girl
good	got	had	half
has	have	help	her
here	him	his	home
house	how	if	jump
just	last	laugh	little
live	lived	love	made
make	man	many	may
more	much	must	name
new	next	night	not
now	off	old	once
one	or	our	out
over	people	pull	push
put	ran	saw	school
seen	should	sister	so
some	take	than	that
their	them	then	there
these	three	time	too
took	tree	two	us
very	want	water	way
were	what	when	where
who	will	with	would

Year 2 Spelling List Examples:

cage	badge	smudge	Egypt	job	juice
sage	bridge	wedge	energy	jog	adjust
wage	edge	gel	gymnast	joy	jukebox
huge	fridge	gem	jab	join	jungle
collage	fudge	gent	jam	joke	injury
carriage	hedge	giant	jaw	banjo	ace
plunge	judge	magic	jail	major	face
stage	lodge	tragic	jacket	jug	ice
village	porridge	imagine	jaguar	junk	slice
voyage	Ridge	giraffe	pyjamas	jump	voice
pace	Cycle	gnat	able	when	war
space	bicycle	gnaw	apple	that	ward
since	cyclist	knee	ankle	because	warm
silence	cyclone	knock	bottle	while	warn
circus	Icy	know	castle	however	want
city	juicy	knight	dazzle	also	squad
exercise	lacy	wrap	middle	besides	squash
icicle	spicy	write	poodle	despite	quality
pencil	fancy	written	table	after	quarrel
scissors	mercy	wrong	wobble	although	quartet
harmful	plentiful	I'll	can't	blew	see
hurtful	penniless	you'll	didn't	blue	sea
joyful	happily	he'll	hasn't	quite	door
painful	badly	she'll	haven't	quiet	floor
tearful	sadly	we'll	mustn't	here	mind
careless	shyly	they'll	one	hear	behind
lifeless	softly	it's	won	their	old
unless	slowly	wouldn't	to	they're	beautiful
useless	warmly	couldn't	too	there	last
wireless	wisely	shouldn't	two	everybody	path
happiest	skiing	hoping	baked	bravest	beginning
heaviest	taxiing	joking	closed	cutest	dropping
laziest	having	sliding	smiled	largest	humming
dying	making	diving	typed	latest	sitting
tying	using	naming	used	widest	stopping
lying	loving	hiding	braver	shiny	sobbing
buying	changing	taking	cuter	spiky	travelling
enjoying	cycling	shaking	larger	oily	planned
crying	hiking	freezing	later	icy	rubbed
copying	scoring	lazing	wider	being	Slipped
stopped	runny	brother	work	fitness	earthquake
knitted	sunny	other	world	illness	eyeball
travelled	boxer	mother	worth	sadness	popcorn
bigger	mixing	donkey	vision	witness	basketball
thinner	fixed	key	treasure	happiness	butterfly