Writing NEWSLETTER

News updates from Sheringham Community Primary School & Nursery

Welcome to the first edition of SCPS&N's Writing Newsletter! Back in November, we reached out to you through a questionnaire to gain a better understanding of your thoughts on children's writing and how the school supports it. We truly appreciate the time you took to share your feedback, which has been invaluable in shaping how we can better assist you in supporting your child's writing journey. Many of you expressed a desire for clearer information on how writing should progress through the school years, as well as strategies to help your child at home. In response to your requests, we're excited to introduce this half-termly newsletter, designed to provide practical advice and insights to keep you informed and engaged in your child's writing development.

Our Mastery Steps:

Reception – Year of the word.
Year 1 – Year of the sentence.
Year 2 – Year of the expanded sentence.
Year 3 – Year of the paragraph
Year 4 – Year of audience and purpose.
Year 5 – Year of the details.
Year 6 – Year of mastery.

Our Writing Curriculum:

At SCPS&N, we take a creative, book-based approach to teaching writing, using high-quality children's literature to inspire and engage our students. You may have heard of the baby sloths discovered in school, the aliens who left their mark, or the afternoon tea like no other, hosted at the Savoy. These exciting and imaginative experiences are all designed to spark our children's passion for both reading and writing. Each half term, we focus on one or two books, exploring them in depth so that children are immersed in a variety of text types, learning through both listening and writing. We follow a mastery approach to our writing curriculum, ensuring that each year group has a clear focus to help children master key skills before moving on to the next stage of their writing development.

Below you will find information from each year group explaining what their focus is for Spring 1.

Nursery:

This Spring term, we will offer a range of engaging activities designed to develop the children's motor skills, preparing them to hold a pencil with control as they get ready for writing. We will also encourage their mark-making skills by exploring key stories together. The children will create maps to help retell these stories, using a wide variety of writing and mark-making materials to spark creativity and build confidence in early writing.

Reception:

In our 'Year of the Word', we are laying the foundation for confident writing by focusing on key early skills. The children are using their Fred Fingers to hear the sounds in words and write them down, supporting their phonics development. We are also practicing letter formation using the Read Write Inc rhymes and working hard to write out names accurately and independently. These small steps are helping the children to build a strong start on their writing journey!

Year 1:
As part of our 'Year of the Sentence', we are focusing on building confidence in writing simple, clear and accurate sentences. This half term, the children will be practicing spelling high-frequency words such as went, was and come. We are teaching the essential elements of a sentence: starting with a capital letter, using finger spaces to make writing readable, and ending with a full stop. Using *'Lost and Found'* as our inspiration, the children will write their own versions of the story and learn to use suffices like -ing, -ed, -est and -er to enhance their writing.

Year 2:
In our 'Year of the Expanded Sentence', we are helping the children to develop their writing by expanding ideas with detailed description and linking sentences effectively. This half term, we are exploring *'Wolves'* and *'Tadpole's Promise'* to inspire our writing. Through these texts, the children will learn about expanded noun phrases, adverbial phrases, and conjunctions to create more detailed and interesting sentences. They will produce a range of writing outcomes, including captions, information writing, character descriptions, and explanations. Highlights will include creating a non-chronological leaflet and writing their own version of *'Tadpole's Promise'*.

Year 3:
This half term, as part of our 'Year of the Paragraph', we are focusing on developing strong paragraph structure, particularly how to craft engaging openings and effective closings. Using *'The BFG'* as inspiration, the children will explore creative writing techniques such as similes, noun phrases, and adverbials to enhance their descriptions. They will also learn about the -shun suffix and how it can be used to enrich their writing about dreams. By practicing these skills, we aim to help the children build confidence and precision in their writing, one paragraph at a time.

Year 4:
We are very excited to continue our writing journey as 'The Year of Audience and purpose'! Together, we are focusing on making careful and deliberate choices about our writing, grammar and vocabulary, as well as making purposeful changes to what we have written as authors and editors. In our English lessons this half term, we will be exploring the historical fiction genre using the text 'Escape from Pompeii'. We are working towards publishing our own newspaper reports, using similes, noun phrases and prepositional phrases to add vivid descriptions and detail. We will be using apostrophes for possession and punctuation for direct speech.

Year 5:
This half term, we are exploring 'The Selfish Giant'. As part of our work on this text, the children will write a variety of responses, including diaries, reports and their own creative versions of the story. Our focus will be on enhancing detail through varied vocabulary and descriptive language. In addition, we will deepen the children's understanding of grammar by working with prefixes and suffixes and developing their use of more complex sentence structures. These skills will help bring their writing to life and support their progress in our 'Year of the Details'.

Year 6:
Year 6 are the 'Year of Mastery' which builds on everything the children have learnt throughout their primary school journey. It is an accumulation of all the writing strands, elevating the children to a position of KS2 mastery. This half term, the children are exploring the text 'Grimm Tales' by Philip Pullman: traditional fairytales with a twist. These tales often result in gruesome, untimely deaths which the children love! The children will be writing their own gruesome fairytales, including many of the language characteristics found in this genre of writing.

Upcoming events:

Poetry slam with Lewis Buxton.
https://www.lewisbuxton.com/workshops.

Author workshops with Steve Clifford
https://csclifford.co.uk