

English - Writing

In Year 4, children become more confident, independent writers. They learn to vary sentence structures, use paragraphs effectively, and apply grammar and punctuation with accuracy. Through our writing units linked to topics such as Deep in the Forest, Empires Rule, and Divide and Conquer, children explore a wide range of fiction, poetry, and non-fiction texts.

We focus on:

Using ambitious vocabulary; writing with clear purpose and audience; developing control of grammar and punctuation; and refining ideas through editing.

Children are encouraged to take pride in their writing and see themselves as real authors.

Area of Study	Year 4
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan writing by discussing ideas and identifying purpose and audience.• Compose and rehearse sentences with increasing vocabulary and control.• Organise paragraphs logically around a central theme.• Use openings and endings effectively in narratives.• Use headings, subheadings, and bullet points in non-fiction writing.• Evaluate and edit writing to improve grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary.
Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use fronted adverbials confidently and place commas accurately after them.• Punctuate direct speech correctly using inverted commas and commas after reporting clauses.• Use a wider range of conjunctions (when, if, because, although, while, since).• Use expanded noun phrases for detail and precision.
Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use prefixes and suffixes (e.g., <i>-tion</i>, <i>-sion</i>, <i>-ous</i>).• Spell a range of common exception words.• Check spellings using a dictionary.• Write from memory simple sentences that include taught words and punctuation.
Handwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use joined handwriting that is legible and consistent in size.• Ensure neat presentation and fluency when writing at length.
Sentence Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write complex sentences using subordination and conjunctions.• Use varied sentence starters and structures for effect.• Vary sentence length to control pace and mood in writing.
Editing and Evaluating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-read writing for clarity and meaning.• Edit to improve vocabulary, punctuation, and grammar choices.• Reflect on how writing affects the reader and make purposeful changes.

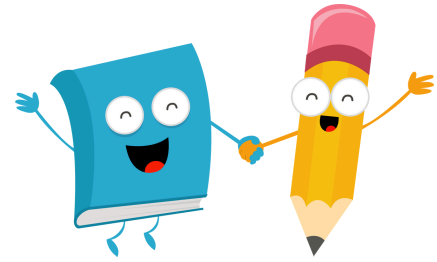


Year 4

How can I help my child at home?

Encourage Writing for Purpose

- Encourage them to write stories, diary entries, or fact files linked to their interests.
- Let them create instructions, reviews, or persuasive leaflets for fun projects.
- Praise creativity and ideas, not just spelling or handwriting.



Build Grammar Confidence



- Notice how authors use paragraphs, dialogue, or fronted adverbials in books.
- Practise identifying different sentence openers together.
- Play sentence-building games (“Can you add a fronted adverbial to this?”).

Develop Vocabulary

- Discuss new words from reading or topics at school.
- Encourage using a dictionary or thesaurus to find alternatives.
- Play word challenges – e.g., “find three words better than nice.”



Read and Reflect



- Read widely – stories, newspapers, poems, and factual texts.
- Talk about the writer’s choices: “Why did they use that word?” or “How does this make you feel?”

Praise Effort

- Celebrate perseverance and imagination.
- Remind them that every great writer edits, revises, and improves over time.

