



Learning Update – October 2016

Writing Skills

Welcome to the first Literacy Learning Update of this academic year, where the focus is on developing writing skills. At Wendover Junior School we place great emphasis on all aspects of writing. Neat handwriting, correct spellings, appropriate grammar, accurate punctuation and creative ideas are all essential skills for producing high quality written work. We provide a number of exciting opportunities to enthuse the children and heighten the profile of writing across the whole school.



Spellings

Spellings are taught in two ways. National Curriculum spelling lists for each year group are learnt and tested weekly. These word lists follow a specific rule that should be practised during the week. In addition, high frequency word lists are learnt and tested on a half termly basis, with a certificate awarded on successful completion of each level. The lists are split into Bronze and Silver (1, 2, 3) for Years 3 and 4 and Gold and Platinum (1, 2, 3) for Years 5 and 6. If all these certificates are attained, children will be entered into Mastery level where more challenging words will be provided. Children at Mastery level will also be invited to take part in spelling bee and 'Call My Bluff' whole school assemblies during the year.

How You Can Help

It is really important that parents/carers are involved in helping children to learn their spellings. Confidence in spelling allows children to write more freely and imaginatively and you should encourage your child to practise their spellings for 10 to 20 minutes EVERY day. Here are some games and ideas to try to keep learning fun and interesting. Remember, everyone learns by: doing it, seeing it, saying it, writing/drawing it, listening to it, so making sure you have variety of games and tasks is a great way to ensure the learning sticks!

Word search Create your own word searches using your spelling words.

Media search Using a newspaper or magazine you have 15 minutes to find your spelling words and circle them in different colours. Which of your spellings words was used the most times?

Scrabble spelling Find the letters needed to spell the words and then mix them up in the bag. Give your child time to unscramble the letters.

Pyramid power Choose your easiest spelling word and write it at the top of the page near the middle. Write the next easiest word twice underneath. Write the third word three times underneath and so on until the pyramid is complete.

Air spelling Using your index finger, write your spelling word in the air slowly, saying each letter as you write it.

More resources and helpful ideas will be added to the school website as the year progresses.

Writing Competition

In addition to the spelling certificates awarded each half term, our Y6 writing mentors run a regular competition to promote a love of writing and direct children to thinking about the audience and purpose of their pieces. These are held every 3 weeks for upper and lower school and winners receive a certificate, a mystery prize and their story is read out by a teacher of their choice in a style of their choice. Previous winners have had their stories shouted out and sung by selected teachers! This week's writing is based on a Halloween-themed picture stimulus so the writing mentors are looking forward to receiving some spine-chilling reads.



Reading

All good writing emerges from a love of reading and having good quality models of writing in front of them. At Wendover Junior School we promote this love of reading through everyday lessons, focussed guided reading sessions and the development of two library areas in North End and South End. We have also bought in an exciting and updated reading scheme for children to improve their reading skills. Children are given reading homework of 20-30 minutes a day depending on their age which provides a chance for parents to listen to their child read or, alternatively, model the act of reading and instil a love of literature in their child. Overleaf are some suggestions for quality reads.

Finally, don't forget that we will be holding the first of our biannual Book Fairs during the forthcoming parent consultation evenings so please leave plenty of time for browsing the shelves either before or after your meeting. Who knows, you could find the book that ignites your child's passion for reading and begins a lifelong love of literature.

Wendover CE Junior School

Great Picture Books

Again by Emily Gravett
Chalk by Bill Thomson
Courtney by John Burningham
Dogger by Shirley Hughes
Flotsam by David Weisner
Fungus the Bogeyman by Raymond Briggs
Funnybones by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Hairy Maclary books by Lynley Dodd
Instructions by Neil Gaiman
Kicking a Ball by Allan Ahlberg
Ladybird Picture Books- Fairy Tales
Mr Gumpy's Outing by John Burningham
Mr Wuffles by David Weisner
Mythological Monsters of Ancient Greece by Sara Fanelli
Night of the Gargoyles by Eve Bunting
Oh No, George! by Chris Haughton
On the Way Home by Jill Murphy
Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins
Shh, We Have a Plan! by Chris Haughton
The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt
The Green Ship by Quentin Blake
The Island by Armin Greder
The Mysteries of Harris Burdick by Chris van Allsburg
The Rabbits by John Marsden and Shaun Tan
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
The Wolves in the Walls by Neil Gaiman
This is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen
Tuesday by David Weisner
We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Classic Children's Literature

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
The War of the Worlds by HG Wells
Charlotte's Web by EB White
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling
Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson

Retellings of Classics

Robin of Sherwood by Michael Morpurgo
Beowulf by Kevin Crossley-Holland
Shakespeare Stories by Leon Garfield
Myths and Legends retold by Anthony Horowitz
Collected Folk Tales by Alan Garner
Stories from Shakespeare by Geraldine McCaughrean
The Orchard Book of Shakespeare Stories by Andrew Matthews
Tales of Ancient Egypt by Roger Lancelyn Green
The Orchard Book of Swords, Sorcerers and Superheroes by Tony Bradman
The Oxford Treasury of Fairy Tales by Geraldine McCaughrean
The Odyssey Graphic Novel by Gareth Hinds
Greek Myths by Ann Turnbull
The Adventures of Odysseus by Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden
Atticus the Storyteller's 100 Greek Myths by Lucy Coats

Traditional Stories

Tales from the West Indies by Faustin Charles
One Thousand and One Arabian Nights by Geraldine McCaughrean
The Thousand Nights and One Night retold by David Walser
The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor retold by John Yeoman
Grimm Tales by Philip Pullman
Book House Ancient Greek Myths
The Odyssey retold by Robin Lister
The Trick of the Tale by John and Caitlin Matthews
Aesop's Fables retold by Alice Shirley

Fantastic Non-Fiction

The Magic of Reality by Richard Dawkins
A Dictionary of Monsters and Mysterious Beasts by Carey Miller
The Number Devil by Hans Magnus Enzenberger
How to Keep Dinosaurs by Robert Mash
The Usborne History of Britain
Professor Stewart's Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities by Ian Stewart
What Makes Me? by Robert Winston
Wholly Irresponsible Experiments by Sean Connolly
Gravity by Jason Chin

Poetry

Where my Wellies Take Me by Clare and Michael Morpurgo
The Nation's Favourite Children's Poems – BBC
Classic Poetry selected by Michael Rosen
The Ring of Words by Roger McGough
Cautionary Verses by Hilaire Belloc
The Rattle Bag edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes
New and Collected Poems for Children by Carol Anne Duffy
Revolting Rhymes by Roald Dahl
The Oxford Treasury of Classic Poems
iF- A Treasury of Poems for Almost Every Possibility edited by Allie Esiri and Rachel Kelly
Collected Poems for Children by Ted Hughes

Great Contemporary Fiction

Not the End of the World by Geraldine McCaughrean
His Dark Materials books by Philip Pullman
Lyra's Oxford by Philip Pullman
Once Upon a Time in the North by Philip Pullman
Montmorency by Eleanor Updale
Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror by Chris Priestley
Fly by Night by Frances Hardinge
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
Coraline by Neil Gaiman
The Last Polar Bears by Harry Horse
Clockwork by Philip Pullman
Holes by Louis Sachar
Mouse Bird Snake Wolf by David Almond
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness
Ribblestrop by Andy Mulligan
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
The Various by Steve Augarde
Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve
Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin
Clockwork by Philip Pullman
Once by Morris Gleitzman
Diamond Brothers books by Anthony Horowitz
Young Bond books by Charlie Higson
The Magician of Samarkand by Alan Temperley