



Writing at Mill Dam



Intent

At Mill Dam School we want every child to develop the basic transcription and composition skills to become fluent and accurate writers. We will ensure that all children have access to quality instruction in all elements of the writing process including handwriting, spelling, grammar, punctuation and composition. We will link written activities to reading and cross curricular work or events (such as visits) wherever possible to ensure that it maintains a clear purpose and helps to develop learning and capability more widely.

Implementation

Writing at Mill Dam will be taught in the following ways:

- In EYFS gross motor skills will be developed through provision and targeted activity to gain good muscle development essential for the writing process. Opportunities to write and mark make for purpose will be presented throughout the EYFS curriculum, provision and enhancements. More structured pencil control will be developed.
- Throughout KS1 and 2 daily writing lessons will take place. These will help the children to develop extended pieces of writing linked to texts, experiences and work studied across the curriculum. These lessons will build up the transcription skills of handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation and support children to apply these through strategically planned opportunities to begin to write for a specific purpose and audience.
- All children will be taught to use the 'fantastic five' writing elements to ensure correct sentence structures are learned and maintained. These will be introduced in KS1 but will be referred to, as needed, throughout school.
- The writing process will be 'chunked' and 'checked' regularly through the writing cycle. This will involve small sections, sentences and paragraphs being modelled, written, edited and refined before children move on. This will help to maintain accuracy and control as the length of written pieces develops.
- Drama techniques will be used to develop elements of writing such as scene setting and characterisation where appropriate.
- There will be regular opportunities for children to write at length and present their written work to an audience of readers. During KS2, once each year, children will complete an independent home learning project which will showcase their writing skills as well as their cross curricular knowledge.

Impact

The outcomes of summative assessments across school have shown that writing continues to improve and strengthen and those at EYFS, Y2 and Y6 are consistently in line with, or above, National Average measures. Impact is also seen through the range of work in children's English books and in their writing across the curriculum. We will judge ongoing impact through in school, trust wide and local authority moderation; through, at least half termly, work scrutiny and planning reviews; and, at least termly, drop ins and pupil voice discussions. The impact of our writing curriculum will also be shown through the consistency of writing across the curriculum and the depth of the allied reading curriculum.

Cross curricular and extra curricular links.

- Community involvement: Children will have opportunities to use their writing skills to support the local community eg: designing leaflets for community events such as litter picking.
- Cultural understanding and diversity: The curriculum includes the opportunity to read and write from a range of cultures as well as specific events such as religious festivals.
- Respect for all: All our writing is planned with a distinct purpose in mind and this includes respecting the identity and beliefs of all potential readers.
- Equality: All children have full access to all elements of our writing curriculum. Where needed electronic and physical support will be available.
- Extra curricular / cross curricular links: All of our writing is linked through all of our curriculum subjects.

