

Curriculum Area: Literacy

Year Group: 6

An Introduction to Year 6

Throughout the course of Year Six, we hope for the level of maturity and sophistication shown in children's English work to develop consistently. Having read literature for 'enjoyment' in previous years, it now forms part of the 11 plus entry exam, so as well as enjoying their reading children learn to respond reflectively in considerable detail through book studies and guided reading.

In responding to texts it is expected that they will develop more independence and include greater levels of interpretation and inference. Creatively, we expect children to be able to adapt their writing to different purposes and audiences, whilst including advancing vocabulary and levels of metaphorical language. All classroom teaching and assessment is aimed to prepare and instil confidence in students for their 11+ examinations in January.

Key Stage: Two

Expected Level of Attainment: The National attainment level for Year 6 Pupils is Level 4B, however the average for pupils at Eridge House is Level 4A.

Expectations:

By the end of the year it is our aim that the children will:

Speaking & Listening: Students are able to present engaging and well prepared presentations with a specific audience and purpose in mind. Similarly, they can listen and critically evaluate the opinions of others.

Writing: Students will be able to [reflect independently and critically on their own writing and edit and improve it.](#) They will be able to use different narrative techniques to engage and entertain the reader. Children will be able to identify criteria for evaluating a situation, object or event, presenting findings fairly and adding persuasive emphasis to key points.

Reading: Children can understand how writers use different structures to create coherence and impact. They can infer the meanings of unknown words using syntax, context, word structures and origins. This also allows them to read between the lines and find evidence for their interpretation.

Spelling: Students will spell familiar words correctly and employ a range of strategies to spell difficult and unfamiliar words. They will also use a range of appropriate strategies to edit, proofread and correct spelling in their own work, on paper and on screen.

Handwriting: By the end of Year Six, students will adopt different styles of handwriting for different purposes with a range of media, developing a consistent and personal legible style.

Autumn Term

During the Autumn Term students explore a variety of non-fiction texts through their study of the 'Human Body' and 'Modern Masters'. Students also expand their knowledge of story structure and descriptive writing through the Big write, where they focus on utilising the five senses to add descriptive detail and imagery to creative writing tasks. Students are also involved in the annual Eridge House Book Fair where they enter competitions for Poetry and Creative writing.

Writing:

- Descriptive writing
- Comprehension
- Narrative structure
- Poetry: the power of imagery
- Reading and writing non-fiction
- Biography and Autobiography

Punctuation and Grammar:

Students follow Nelson's Book 4 scheme for Punctuation and Grammar, and also study parts of speech such as nouns, verbs & conjunctions, sentence and speech punctuation and subject/verb agreement tenses.

Book Study: This term we will be studying 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman. This text explores many themes relating to the Human Body, such as animal – human transplants, genetic engineering as well as broader themes relating of Religion, Morality and Mental Health. Students will have the opportunity to dissect and debate these themes as well as analyse the narrative structure, dialogue, character and story development.

Spring Term

During the Spring Term, we will be investigating the Rise and Fall of the British Empire. This will involve investigations into non-fiction texts and improve skills in note taking and inference. Students will also be studying the text 'Journey to the River sea' which links in with the expansion of the British Empire and creates empathy for those involved in the expansion of the Empire. Children will also have to opportunity to dress up as their favourite character from a novel during World Book Week.

Writing:

- Formal/impersonal writing
- Journalistic writing such as news reports

- Persuasive and argumentative writing

Punctuation and Grammar:

Students follow Nelson's Book 4 scheme for Punctuation and Grammar, and also study parts of speech such as adjectives and adverbs, apostrophes, complex sentences clauses – subject & object active & passive voice formal & informal tone.

Book Study:

This term, students will be studying the text 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson. This novel explores themes associated with the expansion of the British Empire and should instil a degree of empathy in students regarding the impact of colonisation on Native Peoples and lands. Children will read and respond to the text in a variety of ways to encourage inference and improve their vocabularies and writing techniques.

Summer Term

During the Summer Term, students will be expanding their creative writing skills and comprehension of Narrative genres such as Science fiction, Adventure and Fantasy. They will be reading, analysing and creating their own Fantasy tales, whilst also studying Space and Innovation through the creative curriculum.

Writing:

- Fiction genres
- Science fiction/fantasy narrative structure and creative writing
- Extending narrative
- Short stories

Punctuation and Grammar:

Students follow Nelson's Book 4 scheme for Punctuation and Grammar, and also study parts of speech; prepositions, commas, dashes & brackets, semi-colons and colons.

Book Study:

During the Summer we will explore the text 'Why the Whales Came' by Michael Morpurgo. This novel is set in just prior to the end of WW1 and explores a variety of Historical themes. This analysis will provide students with an excellent context for their study of Historical fictions and adventure narratives. They will also be able to link literacy activities such as a Diary entry to the topic 'innovations and inventions- flight'.

Reading

Students read in class every day through Guided reading sessions, where they are encouraged to develop their inference skills, as well as maintaining a daily reading journal at home. Students also complete their book study each week, as this enhances inference and interpretation skills.

Spelling

Students complete a weekly spelling test based on a scheme of work from Saint Ambrosia and also work from Nelson's Developing Spelling skills book 4.

Handwriting

Children are encouraged to use different styles of handwriting for different purposes with a range of media, to develop a consistent and personal legible style. Students are also taught to review the legibility and neatness of their handwriting and set personal targets to improve presentation, using a range of presentational devices.

Excursions & Further Experiences

Students will attend a variety of extra curricular activities throughout the year to immerse them in their current topic studies and foster a love of reading and literacy. This includes an excursion to the Natural History Museum and the National Gallery for an in depth analysis of the work of Vincent Van Gough. Students also participate in the Eridge House Book Fair, World Book Day, and visit the V&A Museum to experience a day in the life of a Victorian person.

Assessment

Ongoing assessments take place during normal lesson time, based on the expectations of the 11+ exam. This helps to prepare those children who will ultimately sit these entrance exams, while supplying a clear picture of children's progress in reading comprehension and creative writing. We also spend time practising a range of Verbal Reasoning questions to familiarise children with this type of testing. In Year Six, all children sit practice exams each week in preparation for the 11+ examinations in January, the results of which are reported to parents.

Reporting to Parents

In Year Six, Parents' Evening is held in the autumn, spring and summer terms, with written reports also distributed at the end of each Term.

Schemes of Work, Texts and Equipment

Year 6 Spelling lists: www.saintambrosebarlow.wigan.sch.uk/Year6spellingpage.htm

Nelson's Developing Skills in Spelling, Book four.

Collins focus on Grammar and Punctuation, Book four.

Nelson's Developing Skills, Book four.

'Pig Heart Boy', Malorie Blackman.

'Journey to the River Sea', Eva Ibbotson.

'Why the Whales Came', Michael Morpurgo.