

Vocabulary

Nouns – type of things

- Nurse, fire fighter, chocolate cake, kitten, puppy, Labrador, college, church, teacher, chair, knife, carpet, fish, Atlantic Ocean, tree etc.

Adjectives – describing words

- Beautiful, happy, wet, dry, dirty, soft, hairy, golden, sweet, sour, ugly, fluffy, blue, shiny, translucent, reflective etc,

Verbs – doing/action words

- Walking, sitting, watching, jumping, cooking, reading, laughing, racing, playing, skiing, thinking, worrying, eating etc.

'Wow' Words

One of the targets we want the children to aim for is to use a range of interesting and ambitious vocabulary in their writing. By ambitious we mean a word not usually used by a child at their age or stage of development.

For example;

- ❖ At the age of 5/6 words like exciting, interesting and afraid.
- ❖ At the age of 6/7 words like adventure, accident and magic.
- ❖ At the age of 7/8 gigantic, silently, sadness, baggage and companion.
- ❖ At age 8/9 attractive, patiently, courage and furnishings.

Children are continually encouraged to use 'wow' words in their writing. Some of these words are then displayed on the classroom wall for everyone to share.

Openers and Connectives

Openers – Openers do what they say – they open sentences.

- ❖ At level 1 they start sentences with words like The, My and I.
- ❖ At level 2 they can use openers to show a sequence; First, Then, Next. They begin to use connectives to start sentences.
- ❖ At level 3 they start to use more sophisticated openers; Although, After a while..., the golden sun shone, the little old man....
- ❖ At level 4 they use ambitious connectives to open sentences; Having, Despite, and phrases such as ‘Due to the lack of’, Before the audience left....’

Here are some examples of openers ending in ing, ly and ed:

ing – Walking, Skipping, Laughing, Hurrying, Noticing, Worrying, Sweating, Scratching, Screaming, Crying, Bursting, Singing, Behaving, Arguing, Seething

ly – Excitedly, Surprisingly, Strangely, Happily, Wearily, Suddenly, Unbelievably, Worryingly, Knowingly, Impatiently, Stupidly, Bravely

ed – Frightened, Exhausted, Tired, Bewildered, Scared, Pained, Submerged, Drenched, Bored, Marooned, Cocooned, Ignored

Connectives – Connectives are used to join sentences together.

Children are encouraged to use a wider range of connectives as they progress through the national curriculum levels.

- ❖ At level 1 they will start to join two sentences together using ‘and’.
- ❖ At level 2 they will start to use ‘but’, ‘so’, ‘then’ and also be introduced to and begin to experiment with a wider range of connectives; ‘because’ ‘if’ ‘when’.
- ❖ At level 3 they use a wider range of connectives which might include some of the following; because, before, after, when, if. Children also learn to use connectives to open sentences; Before, After, When.
- ❖ At level 4 children use a range of connectives, usually accurately and consistently. They experiment in the use of more ambitious connectives to open sentences e.g. Although, Having, Despite.

Punctuation

The Punctuation Pyramid

The punctuation pyramid, illustrated below, is a simple and highly effective tool for the development of punctuation. It has immediate impact on the accuracy of punctuation used by children writing at level 3 onwards, and stimulates experimentation needed at level 2 and above.

Each classroom has a large pyramid on display. Children are taught that each line of the pyramid represents one level, from Level 1 to Level 5. Punctuation marks are named by the teachers and examples of their use are modelled by teachers in literacy lessons, and children are encouraged to spot punctuation marks in the texts that they read. They are also asked to look at their own writing and assess which level they think they are working at and what punctuation marks they need to start using to reach the next level.

The National Curriculum Levels are explained below.

Level 2 is the level that the average child in Year 2, (6 & 7 year olds) reach,

Level 3 is the level that the average child in Year 4, (8 & 9 year olds) reach,

Level 4 is the level that the average child in Year 6, (10 & 11 year olds) reach.

