



# Year 6 Spring Term English Project

There are 3 key objectives for the project:

- 1) All children will use joined up handwriting.
- 2) All children will use more interesting word choices in their writing.
- 3) All children will spend more time reading for pleasure and having access to interesting stories and other texts.

## **Handwriting - Why are we focusing on this?**

- When joining handwriting it helps you to remember spellings by developing muscle memory for these.
- When you use joined handwriting, neuron connections in the brain, that are used for organising information and skills, are strengthened from the process.
- Joined handwriting promotes reading as children read what they have written as 'whole words' rather than individual letters.

## **Word choices – Why are we focusing on this?**

- A greater range of vocabulary improves communication skills.
- Learning new vocabulary broadens the mind and learning experiences.
- Research has shown a greater vocabulary helps you to get further in life and improves career prospects.
- A by-product of all of this is that learning new words and finding exciting vocabulary is fun and makes our writing more exciting.

## **Reading for pleasure – Why are we focusing on this?**

- Good readers are generally good writers.
- The more often you read, the greater variety of text types you read and a reading a range of different genres makes for a much better writer.
- Reading regularly stimulates the mind, relieves stress, improves memory and thinking skills, improves concentration and most of all is enjoyable!

Three ways your child should be reading in Year 6:

**Read in their heads to themselves.**

**Read aloud to someone**

**Be read to by an adult**



A book at your child's reading level (see below for more information).



A book either at your child's reading level or just above (because you are there to help them).



Use this as an opportunity to expose your child to books slightly above their own reading level, which they wouldn't be able to access on their own.

Is your child regularly getting all three?

How do I know whether a book is the right level for my child?

## 5 Finger Test

Take the 5 finger test to find out if a book is just right for you. Pick a page and start reading out loud.

Each time you come to a tricky word you don't know, put one finger up.

**1 Finger** - Easy!

**2 Fingers** - Just right.

**3 Fingers** - A little bit hard but it could be fun to try.

**4 Fingers** - Difficult to read. (Try reading with parents or friends.)

**5 Fingers** - Too difficult for now - save it for next year.

