



# **King's Hill Primary School - English**

## **National Curriculum - Year 4**

The following information supports the teaching and learning of English in Year 4:

### **Spoken Word:**

- listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- use relevant strategies to build their vocabulary
- articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings
- maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments
- use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas
- speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English
- participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s)
- consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others
- select and use appropriate registers for effective communication.

### **Reading: Word Reading**

Pupils should be taught to:

- apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (etymology and morphology) as listed in English Appendix 1, both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet
- read further exception words, noting the unusual correspondences between spelling and sound, and where these occur in the word.

### **Reading: Comprehension**

Pupils should be taught to:

- develop positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by:
  - listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
  - reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
  - using dictionaries to check the meaning of words that they have read
  - increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally
  - identifying themes and conventions in a wide range of books
  - preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action
  - discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination

- recognising some different forms of poetry [for example, free verse, narrative poetry]

Understand what they read, in books they can read independently, by:

- checking that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and explaining the meaning of words in context
- asking questions to improve their understanding of a text
- drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
- predicting what might happen from details stated and implied
- identifying main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarising these
- identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning
- retrieve and record information from non-fiction
- participate in discussion about both books that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say.

### **Writing-Transcription**

Spelling (see [English Appendix 1](#))

Pupils should be taught to:

- use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them (English Appendix 1)
- spell further homophones
- spell words that are often misspelt (English Appendix 1)
- place the possessive apostrophe accurately in words with regular plurals [for example, girls', boys'] and in words with irregular plurals [for example, children's]
- use the first two or three letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary
- write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far.

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

- Pupils should learn to spell new words correctly and have plenty of practice in spelling them.
- As in years 1 and 2, pupils should continue to be supported in understanding and applying the concepts of word structure (see English Appendix 2).
- Pupils need sufficient knowledge of spelling in order to use dictionaries efficiently.

### **Writing-Handwriting**

Pupils should be taught to:

- use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch].

### **Writing-Composition**

Pupils should be taught to:

- plan their writing by:
- discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar
- discussing and recording ideas
- draft and write by:

- composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures (English Appendix 2)
- organising paragraphs around a theme
- in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot
- in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices [for example, headings and sub-headings]
- evaluate and edit by:
- assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements
- proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences
- proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors
- read aloud their own writing, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.

### **Writing- Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation**

- Develop their understanding of the concepts set out in [English Appendix 2](#) by:
  - extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including when, if, because, although
  - using the present perfect form of verbs in contrast to the past tense
  - choosing nouns or pronouns appropriately for clarity and cohesion and to avoid repetition
  - using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause
  - using fronted adverbials
  - learning the grammar for years 3 and 4 in English Appendix 2
- indicate grammatical and other features by:
  - using commas after fronted adverbials
  - indicating possession by using the possessive apostrophe with plural nouns
  - using and punctuating direct speech
  - use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 in discussing their writing.

Use the grammatical terminology in [English Appendix 2](#) in discussing their writing.

## Appendix 1-Spelling

### Revision of work from Years 1 and 2

Pay special attention to the rules for adding suffixes.

### New Spelling Work for Year 3 and 4

| Statutory requirements  | Rules and guidance (non-statutory)  | Example words (non-statutory)   |
|---|---|---|
| Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable | If the last syllable of a word is stressed and ends with one consonant letter which has just one vowel letter before it, the final consonant letter is doubled before any ending beginning with a vowel letter is added. The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed. | forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner, prefer, preferred<br><br>gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation |
| The /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words                        | These words should be learnt as needed.   | myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery  |
| The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou  | These words should be learnt as needed.   | young, touch, double, trouble, country  |
| More prefixes   | Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see in- below.  |   |
|   | Like un-, the prefixes dis- and mis- have negative meanings.  | dis-: disappoint, disagree, disobey<br>mis-: misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell)                                 |
|   | The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'.   | in-: inactive, incorrect  |
|   | Before a root word starting with l, in- becomes il.   | illegal, illegible  |
|   | Before a root word starting with m or p, in- becomes im-  | immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect  |
|   | Before a root word starting with r, in- becomes ir-   | irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible  |
|   | re- means 'again' or 'back'.  | re-: redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate  |
|   | sub- means 'under'.   | sub-: subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge  |

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|  | inter– means ‘between’ or ‘among’.  | inter–: interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related)                |
|  | super– means ‘above’.   | super–: supermarket, superman, superstar  |
|  | anti– means ‘against’.  | anti–: antiseptic, anti-clockwise, antisocial   |
|  | auto– means ‘self’ or ‘own’.  | auto–: autobiography, autograph   |
| The suffix –ation                              | The suffix –ation is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply.  | information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration                                |
| The suffix –ly                                 | The suffix –ly is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply.<br><br>The suffix –ly starts with a consonant letter, so it is added straight on to most root words.                                     | sadly, completely, usually (usual + ly), finally (final + ly), comically (comical + ly)   |
|  | Exceptions:<br><br>(1) If the root word ends in –y with a consonant letter before it, the y is changed to i, but only if the root word has more than one syllable.  | happily, angrily  |
|  | (2) If the root word ends with –le, the –le is changed to –ly.  | gently, simply, humbly, nobly   |
|  | (3) If the root word ends with –ic, –ally is added rather than just –ly, except in the word publicly.   | basically, frantically, dramatically  |
|  | (4) The words truly, duly, wholly.  |   |
| Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/ | The ending sounding like /ʒə/ is always spelt –sure.<br><br>The ending sounding like /tʃə/ is often spelt –ture, but check that the word is not a root word ending in (t)ch with an er ending – e.g. teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher. | measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure<br>creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure |
| Endings which sound like /ʒən/                 | If the ending sounds like /ʒən/, it is spelt as –sion.  | division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television                            |

|                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <p>The suffix –ous</p> | <p>Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rules apply for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters.</p> <p>Sometimes there is no obvious root word.</p> <p>–our is changed to –or before –ous is added.</p> <p>A final ‘e’ of the root word must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of ‘g’ is to be kept.</p> <p>If there is an /i:/ sound before the –ous ending, it is usually spelt as i, but a few words have e.</p> | <p>poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, various</p> <p>tremendous, enormous, jealous</p> <p>humorous, glamorous, vigorous</p> <p>courageous, outrageous</p> <p>serious, obvious, curious</p> <p>hideous, spontaneous, courteous</p> |
|------------------------|---|---|

| Statutory requirements   | Rules and guidance (non-statutory)   | Example words (non-statutory)  |
|--|--|--|
| Endings which sound like /ʃən/,<br>spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian                             | <p>Strictly speaking, the suffixes are –ion and –ian. Clues about whether to put t, s, ss or c before these suffixes often come from the last letter or letters of the root word.</p> <p>–tion is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in t or te.</p> <p>–ssion is used if the root word ends in ss or –mit.</p> <p>–sion is used if the root word ends in d or se.</p> <p>Exceptions: attend – attention, intend – intention.</p> <p>–cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs.</p> | <p>invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion</p> <p>expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission</p> <p>expansion, extension, comprehension, tension</p> <p>musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician</p> |
| Words with the /k/ sound spelt<br>ch (Greek in origin)   |  | scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character   |
| Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt<br>ch (mostly French in origin)                                   |  | chef, chalet, machine, brochure  |
| Words ending with the /g/ sound<br>spelt –gue and the /k/ sound<br>spelt –que (French in origin) |  | league, tongue, antique, unique  |
| Words with the /s/ sound spelt<br>sc (Latin in origin)   | In the Latin words from which these words come, the Romans probably pronounced the c and the k as two sounds rather than one – /s/ /k/.  | science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent  |
| Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt<br>ei, eigh, or ey   |  | vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey  |

| Statutory requirements                  | Rules and guidance (non-statutory)  | Example words (non-statutory)  |
|---|---|--|
| Possessive apostrophe with plural words | The apostrophe is placed after the plural form of the word; –s is not added if the plural already ends in –s, but <i>is</i> added if the plural does not end in –s (i.e. is an irregular plural – e.g. <i>children's</i> ). | girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, mice's<br>(Note: singular proper nouns ending in an s use the 's suffix e.g. Cyprus's population)   |
| Homophones and near-homophones          |   | accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, groan/grown, here/hear, heel/heal/he'll, knot/not, mail/male, main/mane, meat/meet, medal/meddle, missed/mist, peace/piece, plain/plane, rain/rein/reign, scene/seen, weather/whether, whose/who's |

**Covered in Year 4**



Word list – years 3 and 4

accident(ally)  
actual(ly)  
address  
answer  
appear  
arrive  
believe  
bicycle  
breath  
breathe  
build  
busy/business  
calendar  
caught  
centre  
century  
certain  
circle  
complete  
consider  
continue  
decide  
describe  
different  
difficult

disappear  
early  
earth  
eight/eighth  
enough  
exercise  
experience  
experiment  
extreme  
famous  
favourite  
February  
forward(s)  
fruit  
grammar  
group  
guard  
guide  
heard  
heart  
height  
history  
imagine  
increase  
important

interest  
island  
knowledge  
learn  
length  
library  
material  
medicine  
mention  
minute  
natural  
naughty  
notice  
occasion(ally)  
often  
opposite  
ordinary  
particular  
peculiar  
perhaps  
popular  
position  
possess(ion)  
possible  
potatoes

pressure  
probably  
promise  
purpose  
quarter  
question  
recent  
regular  
reign  
remember  
sentence  
separate  
special  
straight  
strange  
strength  
suppose  
surprise  
therefore  
though/although  
thought  
through  
various  
weight  
woman/women

## Appendix 2: Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation – Year 4

| Year 4: Detail of content to be introduced (statutory requirement) |  |
|--|--|
| Word   | The grammatical difference between plural and possessive –s<br>Standard English forms for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms [for example, <i>we were</i> instead of <i>we was</i> , or <i>I did</i> instead of <i>I done</i> ]  |
| Sentence   | Noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases (e.g. <i>the teacher</i> expanded to: <i>the strict maths teacher with curly hair</i> )<br>Fronted adverbials [for example, <i>Later that day, I heard the bad news.</i> ]  |
| Text   | Use of paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme<br>Appropriate choice of pronoun or noun within and across sentences to aid cohesion and avoid repetition   |
| Punctuation  | Use of inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate direct speech [for example, a comma after the reporting clause; end punctuation within inverted commas: <i>The conductor shouted, "Sit down!"</i> ]<br>Apostrophes to mark plural possession [for example, <i>the girl's name</i> , <i>the girls' names</i> ]<br>Use of commas after fronted adverbials |
| Terminology for pupils   | determiner<br>pronoun, possessive pronoun<br>adverbial   |