English Curriculum Overview

2026-2027

Year	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Throughout their time at Sandridge School children will develop their ability to write for a range of purposes starting with writing to entertain and inform in KS1 and then developing their writing to persuade and discuss in KS2.						
Writing to entertain		**Writing to inform**		**Writing to persuade**		**Writing to discuss**

Year	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
Reception Themes	All about me/Colour Autumn Herts Essentials links to Y1 Herts Essentials link to YR	Dark and Light Herts Essentials links to Y1 Herts Essentials link to YR	Winter /If you go into the woods today Traditional tales Herts Essentials links to Y1 Herts Essentials link to YR	Traditional tales continued and Spring/baby farm animals Herts Essentials link to YR Herts Essentials links to Y1	Growing /Life cycles (frog/human) Families Herts Essentials link to YR Herts Essentials links to Y1	Nature/Minibeasts Summer/seaside Herts Essentials link to YR Herts Essentials links to Y1
Texts / themes for non-fiction texts Writing outcomes include: Cooking; opportunities to read and follow recipes	***Starting School stories Nursery/number rhymes*** *e.g.* • I am not ready to go to school Charlie and Lola • Ahlbergs 'starting school. **Ourselves:** • That's not my name • Faces • My nose your nose • All kinds of people • Someone just like you ***Colour:*** • Red Rockets and Rainbow Jelly (make eat jelly)/ Brown Bear Brown Bear • Colour information book (Tate Modern)Colour blue • Purple is (list poem) • Elmer (rainbow fish) (Elmer stories/elephant stories and info books) **Autumn/harvest:** • Oliver's vegetables (vegetable soup) • Handa's Surprise • Supertato • The Princess and the Pea •	**Rhyming:** • Room on the Broom • Oi Cat • Cat Rat rhyming books • This is the bear **Dark and light:** • Firework poems • Diwali non-fiction texts and stories **Night time texts:** • Whatever Next • Peace At Last • Owl Babies • *Nandy's bedtime (link to Maths and routines/day/night)* • *Meg on the Moon in Maths* **Christmas:** • Stickman • Stanley's Stick • Dear Santa • Nativity/Christmas stories Mini Christmas cakes	**Winter** • Gruffalo/Gruffalo Crumble • Julia Donaldson Performance Poetry • Gruffalo's Child **Traditional tales:** • Goldilocks • Goldilocks • Recipe make porridge/ letter • Little Red Riding Hood • Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion • Little Red/Wolves • On the way Home • Anansi stories • Anansi and the golden pot	**Traditional tales:** • 3 Little Pigs • 3 Billy Goats Gruff • Three billy Goats gruff **Chinese New Year** • Chinese new year • Festivals • Non-fiction texts • Animal story • News reports **Spring** • Farm/Baby animals Stories/books/information • Lifesize baby animals • Poems • Humpty Dumpty/Eggs/Easter • (Egg sandwiches)	**Castles/fairy stories** • St. George and the Dragon • George and the dragon story (mouse) • The paper bag princess (gender stereotypes discussion) • Sleeping beauty/Cinderella • Maps of the UK focus • Jack and the Beanstalk • Jaspers Beanstalk • Jim and the Beanstalk • SHHH (castle non fiction) **Growing/planting fiction and non-fiction:** • Growing beans books. • Baked Beans Beans on toast story Eat beans on toast • Titch • You'll soon Grow into them Titch (human life cycle history foci) Families fiction and non-fiction books (diversity foci) • So Much • My must have mum	**Outside learning/tree/bird /flower spotting activities (All things bright and beautiful)** • Bear Hunt • I saw a bee • That's my flower • A new green day • Out and About poems • Frog life cycle • Oi Frog Tad • Frog stories/books/ life cycle • The Very Hungry Caterpillar/Butterfly life cycle/diaries of classroom caterpillars (fruit kebabs) • Big book of Bugs • Eric Carle minibeast books/non-fiction minibeast books • Sam's Sandwich • Bug Hunt **Summer/seaside books:** • Rainbow Fish • Ice cream/fruit lollies **Change/transition**
	These texts may be used as; a key text for a weekly focus, in story time, support for role play opportunities or books accessible to children for CIL, Writing to inform outcomes may include: Labels, lists and captions, recipes, letters, recount and explanations. Writing to entertain outcomes may include: Narrative, list poems, rhymes and performance poetry.					
Skills	**Literacy** **Comprehension** • Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary. • Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories. • Use & understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, nonfiction, rhymes & poems & during role-play. **Word Reading** • Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs. • Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending. • Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words. **Writing** • Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed. • Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters. • Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.					

Year 1 Modules	Labels lists and captions	Narrative	Poetry: List Poems	Recipes	Narrative	Narrative	Rules & recount	Poetry: Rhyme	Narrative	*Poetry: Performance poetry*	Letters	Poetry: Free Verse	Narrative	Explanation	Narrative
Texts	Jasper's Beanstalk Sam Plants a Sunflower OR Someone Just like you	Puffin Peter	Purple Is…	Gruffalo Crumble OR Nature Fun	Three Billy Goats Gruff; The Princess and the Pea, Stop! That's; Not my Story; Professor Goose Debunks Goldilocks	Stanley's Stick	Ravi's Roar Ruby's Worry	Oi Frog! OR Take Off Your Brave Big Red Dragon	Martha Maps It Out Madlenka OR Valentine's Guest House	Julia Donaldson's Poems to Perform	Paddington's Post Here Comes Mr Postmouse OR Letters to a Monster	First Book of Poems: Out and About	Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion	The Big Book of Bugs Tad OR Carnival	We're Going to Find the Monster!

Year 2 & 3 Modules	Narrative	Poetry: Free Verse	Fables	Non-Chronological Report	Narrative (Setting and dialogue)	Persuasive Speeches	Personal Narrative (memoir)	Poetry: Calligrams	Persuasive Letters	Instructions	Non-Chronological Report	Narrative	Poetry: Take One Poet
Texts	Mini-Rabbit Not Lost	'Words Are Ours' (Michael Rosen) & 'The Magic Box' (Kit Wright) OR A Dinosaur at the Bus Stop	The Koala who Could; The Squirrels that Squabbled; The Lion Inside	Incredible Jobs OR The Remarkables	Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Stella and the Seagull OR If I Were Prime Minister	Jabari Jumps; Ralph Tells a Story The Proudest Blue	Love that Dog	Speak Up! Look Up! Clean Up! OR The Day the Crayons Quit	Wolf in the Snow OR Moomin Mail	A Year Full of Celebrations and Festivals from Around the World	The Iron Man	Poems Aloud; Smile Out

Year 4 Modules	Narrative (Graphic Novel)	Persuasive speech	Poetry: Free Verse	Explanations	Narrative	Newspaper Reports OR Memoir	Travel leaflets	Narrative	Poetry: Haiku	Persuasive letters	Non-Chronological Report	Poetry: Take one Poet	Narrative	Poetry
Texts	Arthur and the Golden Rope	The King who Banned the Dark OR The True Story of the Three Little Pigs	'A Small Dragon' (Brian Patten)	Until I met Dudley; Rosie Revere, Engineer; This Book Thinks You're an Inventor; How Everything Works OR The Bedtime Book of Impossible Questions	Starbird Zeraffa Giraffa OR The Barnabus Project	Real-Life Mysteries OR Coming to England Step Into My Shoes	Africa, Amazing Africa Take A Bite India, Incredible India The Big Book of the UK	Leon and the Place Between OR The Queen in the Cave	The Works: Every Kind of Poem You will Ever Need	Malala's Magic Pencil Greta and the Giants		Stars with Flaming Tails	The Girl Who Stole an Elephant OR Ten-Word Tiny Tales	Marshmallow Clouds OR Michael Rosen's A-Z of the Best Children's Poetry

Year 5 Modules	Non-Chronological Report	Description	Poetry: Cinquains	Narrative	Biography	Persuasive letters	Non-Chronological Report	Descriptive recount	Narrative: Mystery and Suspense	Poetry: Take one Poet (assonance)	Explanation	Advertising Campaign	Poetry: Free Verse	Reviews	Narrative
Texts	The World of the Unknown: Monsters The Book of Mythical Beasts and Magical Creatures	Cloud Tea Monkeys OR The Magician's Elephant	Where the Poppies Now Grow	The Promise OR The Adventures of Odysseus	Stone Girl, Bone Girl; Fantastically Great Women who Changed the World; Women in Science	The Misadventures of Frederick	The Skies Above My Eyes The Street Beneath My Feet & The Sea Below My Toes OR The Humans The Mind-Blowing World of Extra Ordinary Competitions	The Watertower OR Black Dog	Boy in the Tower	Rhythm and Poetry	The Lost Book of Adventure		Cloud Busting OR And I Climbed and I Climbed		Birdsong

Year 6 Modules	Narrative	Non-Chronological Report	Narrative	Persuasive Speeches	Non-Chronological Report	Dialogue	Balanced argument	Narrative	Biography	Advocacy Campaign	Narrative	Poetry	Blogs	Narrative
Texts	Night of the Gargoyles The Mysteries of Harris Burdick OR Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror Short Too!	Planetarium Professor Astro Cat's Frontiers of Space	Wisp	Talking History	Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastic World Around You	HFL Provided models OR The Book of Hopes		Blackberry Blue and other fairy tales OR The Selfish Giant	Survivors	I Have the Right Every Child a Song	Skellig	Be the Change: Poems to Help You Save the World OR Colossal Words for Kids		Macbeth OR The Final Year

Please note that where there is an alternative text provided both units provide the same coverage of skill and teachers will choose the unit based on the interests of the children in the class.

Additional Units

To support development and securing of sentence structure, sense and demarcation, there are two units of work that can be taught based on the class teacher's assessment of their class needs. The KS1 unit is called **'Securing Full Stops'** and uses the book 'That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown' by Cressida Cowell' as its core text. The KS2 unit is called **'Fixing Full Stops'** and uses the book '*The Spider and the Fly* by Mary Howitt, illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi' as its core text.

Spelling and Phonics

The school uses the 'Little Wandle' Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme. This is taught from Early Years to the end of Year One. The programme is also used to support pupils who have not secured Phase 5 phonics at the end of Year One by using the scheme's 'Placement Assessments' to assess and track pupils throughout KS2.

Spelling is taught in Year 2 using Little Wandle's year 2 spelling programme. From Year 3 to Year 6 spelling is taught using the HFL 'Essential Spellings' scheme. Pupils are tested each week on spellings that are generated from the teaching sequence being covered the previous week.