

Halling Primary School

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Dear Parents,

A new curriculum has been in place in England since September 2014. The new English curriculum still places an emphasis on Reading and Writing, but there is also an increased focus on grammar, punctuation and spelling.

**Spelling:**

The school will continue to use Read, Write, Inc as this is a fantastic phonics programme which has proven results with helping children learn to read. The phonic sounds will still be reinforced regularly through Key Stage 2. However, as part of the new curriculum they have included lists of words that the children should be able to spell by the end of Year 3 & 4 or Year 5 & 6. Teachers will teach spelling as part of our English lessons and we will be looking at spelling rules and patterns; however we appreciate that any additional support they can receive from home will help them dramatically. They are long lists so please don’t feel that you have to tackle them all in one go! Games like Hangman can be great for getting children to think about how words are spelt, and there is a version of hangman where you have to guess the letters of the word in the correct order! Some children like to write words down, using joined up writing, as they can feel whether the word ‘looks’ right or not and others like to sound or say the word out loud. You can use whatever method works best for you and your child.

**Grammar:**

Since July 2013 children at the end of Year 6 have had to sit a SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) test. One of the things that really stood out for me about the new test is that the children are expected to know and understand a lot of specific language and it needs a lot of reinforcement to help it stick. The good thing about this is that once they have learnt the key vocabulary they can use all of these exciting things in their own writing. The new curriculum means that they are being introduced to some of these concepts earlier than they may have been previously, so your child may come home and talk to you about prepositions and clauses! I know when I started preparing the children for the test two years ago it confused me that “” are no longer called speech marks but are now called inverted commas, and I’m afraid I did have to look up what inverted commas were! I have compiled a **glossary of grammar terms**. These are just some of the key things that children are expected to know by the end of Year 6. I feel that the sooner we can embed the key terms like the names of the different word classes like verbs, nouns, adjectives etc. the sooner the children can feel confident in using them.

I appreciate that some of these terms may be a bit daunting. In my experience the children quite like learning the right name for things and extending their grammar knowledge. This grammar glossary is for your own reference but as with the spelling sheet any help and support that you can give will increase their chances of success. Thank you for your help.

Many thanks

Zoe Boyd