



# Writing Workshop Year 1

Mrs Jones and Mrs tailor

# Session Objectives

To help you understand what phonics is

To provide you with an understanding of how we teach writing

How we use VCOP at school

To give you an insight to the technical and creative sides of writing

To give you ways to help support your child at home with their writing



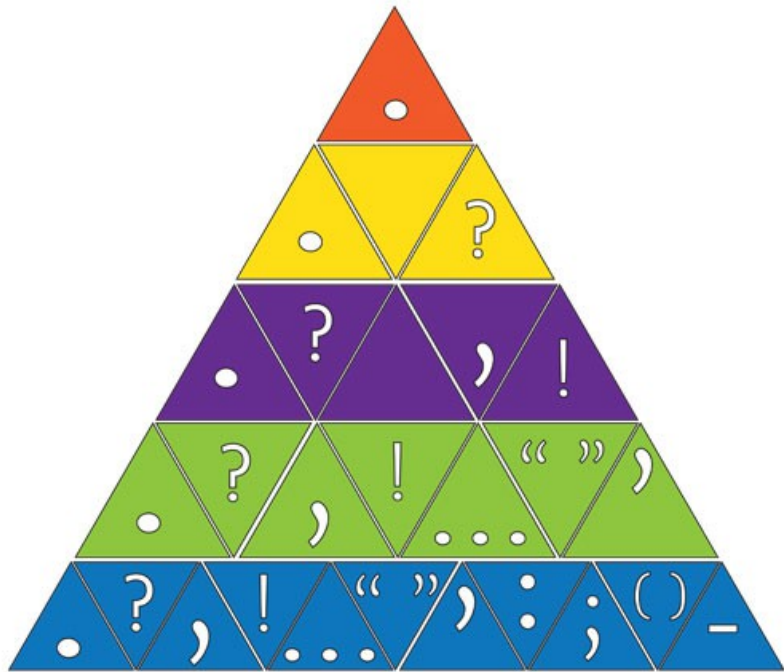
# What is phonics?

- ▶ Phonics is one method of teaching children how to read and write.
- ▶ It's all about sounds. There are 44 sounds in the English language which we put together to form words.
- ▶ Children are taught sounds first, then how to match them to letters and finally how to use the letter sounds for reading and spelling.
- ▶ The majority of Year 1 children are currently being taught Phase 5.
- ▶ Phase 5 is when we start introducing alternative sounds, like 'ie' for the /igh/ sound or how /ow/ makes a different sound in 'snow' and 'cow'. It's also where we teach children the split e digraph (the magic 'e')
- ▶ At the end of Y1, all children are given a Phonics Screening Check to ensure they have mastered the appropriate knowledge.
- ▶ [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) can be great to subscribe to at home to help your child with phonics £12

# How we teach writing

- ▶ We teach daily English and Phonics sessions which all consist of writing.
- ▶ In English, we tend to follow the Pie Corbett 'Talk for Writing' approach.
- ▶ Starting off by focusing on a key text and spend time getting to know the text – hot seating, freeze frames, acting, drawing story maps – lots of drama involved!
- ▶ Then we move on to changing parts of the story, also known as innovating.
- ▶ Finally, the children write their own versions of the text sticking to the same structure for support. They use the story map and actions to keep it fluent.
- ▶ We praise the children for being adventurous with their vocabulary and reviewing their own work using the **Purple Pen of Power!**
- ▶ The writing journey started with words, then captions, moving on to sentences and now the children are forming their own narratives and texts of different genres!

# How we use VCOP



## The progression of VCOP

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Suddenly, fluffy crept because creaky  
as searched starving!



# Kung Fu Punctuation



# Letter formation and handwriting

- ▶ Ensuring we are forming letters correctly to make our writing neat and readable.
- ▶ We encourage children to learn cursive handwriting to promote neatness, speed and fluency. Although this is tricky, it's worth it!
- ▶ Aiming for a consistent approach that will be taught across the year groups in school from EYFS to Y6.
- ▶ Understanding how to form capital and lower case letters and how we join letters together.
- ▶ First rule of cursive: Every letter starts on the line!

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

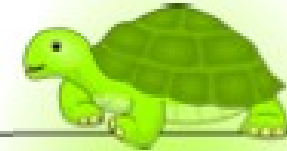
# My Alphabet Writing Mat

Giraffe  
Letters

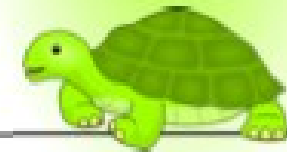


b d f h k l t

Tortoise  
Letters



a c e i m n o



r s u v w x z

Monkey  
Letters



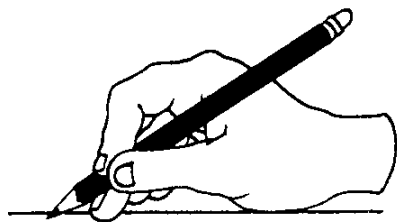
f g j p q y



# Technical and Creative sides of writing

## Technical Writing

- ▶ Pencil grip – tripod grip.
- ▶ Posture when writing
- ▶ Handwriting and cursive letter formation
  - ▶ Use of phonics and tricky words
  - ▶ Aspiring to use all aspects of VCOP
- ▶ Vocabulary, Conjunctions, Openers and Punctuation



## Creative Writing



# Ways to help at home

## ▶ With Fine Motor Skills:

- ▶ Using scissors
- ▶ Jigsaw puzzles
- ▶ Painting
- ▶ Sewing
- ▶ Threading
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Loom bands!
- ▶ Playdough
- ▶ Dot to dots



## ▶ With Phonics:

- ▶ Practice weekly spellings – look, cover, write, check.
- ▶ When reading ask questions like ‘which sound does it begin with?’
- ▶ Playing games such as I Spy to get your child thinking about sounds in a word.
- ▶ Writing without pencils! – In mud, shaving foam, sand, water, painting etc.
- ▶ Discuss reading tricky words
- ▶ Subscribe and play phonicsplay!

## ▶ With Writing:

- ▶ Read with your child daily!
- ▶ Praise all attempts at writing.
- ▶ Practice forming letters.
- ▶ Try to write cursive if they are going to see it.
- ▶ Talk about the language in a book.
- ▶ Encourage children to write about experiences – lists, postcards, invites etc.
- ▶ Play language and word games.

# Helpful handouts

- ▶ Print out of powerpoint presentation
  - ▶ VCOP pyramids x 4
  - ▶ Word and language games
- ▶ Cursive handwriting family sheet
  - ▶ Phase 5 sound mat

