

English Newsletter

September 2026



Top Tip

Does your child answer with “nothing” when you ask them what they have done today?

💡 Try this 💡

Instead of asking: “What did you do at school today?”

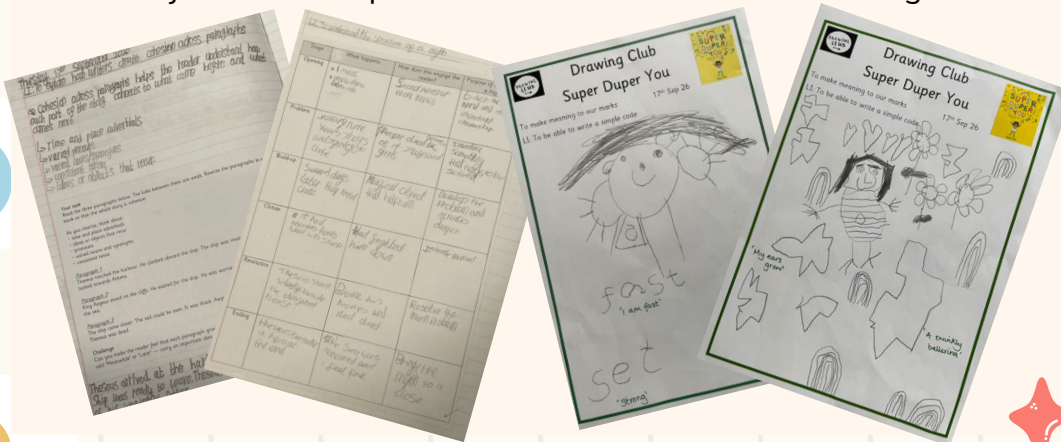
Try:
“Tell me one interesting word you learned today.”

This encourages children to talk about vocabulary and learning rather than simply saying “I don't know!”



A great start!

Children across school have made a great start with their writing! We start writing in Nursery where children are encouraged to mark make with different materials. In Reception, children start drawing club where their drawings come to life with special codes! In Years 1-6 children will produce pieces of writing linked to their topics. Here are just a few snapshots of some of our fabulous writing!



Spelling

In September we have launched our new spelling scheme ‘Spelling with Grammarsaurus’.

Grammarsaurus is a teaching approach that helps children learn spelling and writing by breaking words down into meaningful chunks, word origins, and sound patterns.

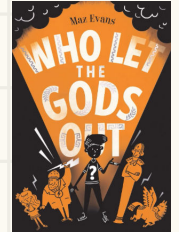
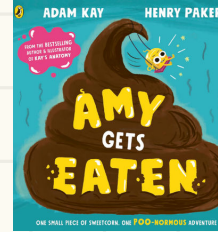
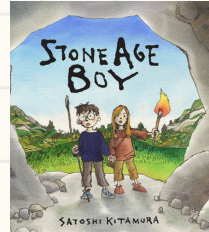
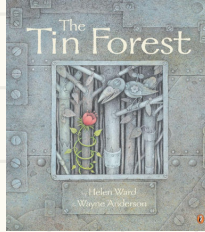
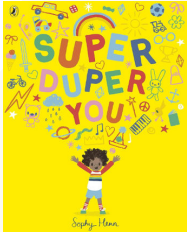
Children learn about morphemes, which are the smallest parts of words that carry meaning (like prefixes, suffixes, and root words). Instead of just memorising whole spelling lists, children learn how words are built.

Look out for more information soon!



Reading Curriculum

Our curriculum is swamped with high quality texts, sometimes they are linked to our History and Geography topics to help embed knowledge and understanding further. Here are the books we are enjoying across school this half term.



Did you know?

If you are member of Derbyshire libraries you can access an online catalogue of books. Just download the App 'Borrow Box' and use your library card. You will need your pin number which is normally your date of birth : first two digits of the day and the last two digits of the year



Phonics

Children learn phonics from Nursery. The children start by orally blending sounds together e.g. c-a-t = cat

Once they can do this orally they learn GPCs (Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondance) which are the written form of the sound,

The next step is to recognise these letters to help them read simple words.

Grapheme - written sound
Phoneme - smallest unit of sound
Digraph - two letters that make one sound e.g. 'ai'
Trigraph - three letters that make one sound e.g. 'igh'

Top Tip

Whilst reading with your child, don't correct every mistake!

💡 Try this 💡

If your child makes a small mistake while reading, give them time to spot and correct it themselves.

Try:
"Does that sound right?" or
"Try that sentence again."



Reading Books

All children in school will bring home a reading book. Please read with your child as often as possible aim for at least four times a week. Please make sure these are in school every day.



Useful websites

Oxford Owl - a variety of different e books. Some phonically plausible and some for more confident readers.

Teach your monster to read(App) -perfect for children in Nursery/Reception just learning initial letter sounds.

Top Marks - Fun educational games for all ages.

