



Our Philosophy for Teaching English

At Furness Academy Trust, we believe the use of English in spoken and written form is the foundation of all learning, and that a secure basis in literacy skills will give the children the tools they need to communicate effectively and creatively in society. It is therefore essential that all children are given an early confidence and ability in the use of language to enable them to access the whole curriculum.

Hamilton Brookes

English is taught daily from Reception to Year 6. By utilizing the Hamilton Brookes English curriculum alongside Read Write Inc. Phonics, Spelling and the RWI Get Writing programme. By carefully selecting these schemes and resources, we ensure

that our teaching methods are both comprehensive and adaptable, meeting the diverse needs of our students and promoting excellence in all aspects of English language learning.

Teaching Phonics and Early Reading

To develop strong foundations in reading, we use the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme alongside the Hamilton Brookes curriculum. This structured, synthetic phonics approach teaches children to decode words by segmenting and blending sounds. Daily, systematic lessons ensure children progress through phonics phases with confidence. Regular assessments help identify those needing additional support, ensuring every child develops the skills required to become a fluent and enthusiastic reader. Children also read carefully matched books to consolidate their learning and build reading fluency.



Reading Beyond the Phonic Journey

Our approach to reading follows the structured progression set out in the Hamilton Brookes curriculum, which builds fluency, comprehension, and a deep understanding of texts. The curriculum provides high-quality, engaging texts that expose children to a wide range of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Carefully structured lesson sequences ensure that pupils develop key reading skills such as retrieval, inference, prediction, and summarising. In addition, children in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 also have a dedicated weekly lesson focused on developing their fluency and comprehension and this allows us to systematically monitor progress and provide early intervention where needed. These dedicated sessions involve working on texts related not only to their English work but also to other curriculum subjects, enabling them to make meaningful cross-curricular connections.

Reading for Pleasure: We promote reading for pleasure through a variety of engaging activities that inspire a love of books. Daily class reads introduce children to exciting stories, while our reading raffle encourages regular independent reading with fun incentives. Our children's Bring & Borrow library fosters a sharing culture, allowing pupils to explore new books freely. Well-stocked class reading areas provide inviting spaces for quiet reading, and author visits bring stories to life, sparking curiosity and creativity. Additionally, themed reading days immerse children in literature through interactive experiences, making reading an enjoyable and enriching part of school life.

Spelling Year 2-Year 6

From Year 1 to Year 6, we use the Read Write Inc. Spelling programme to teach children how to spell accurately and confidently. This approach builds on the phonics knowledge developed in the early years, introducing children to more complex spelling patterns, rules, and common exceptions. The programme is delivered through short, daily sessions that are engaging and interactive, encouraging children to apply their learning in both their independent writing and spelling assessments. Regular practice, alongside strategies such as 'Fred Fingers' and 'Spelling Zones' ensures children develop not only accuracy but also an understanding of word structure and meaning.



Speaking & Listening

The Hamilton Brookes curriculum emphasizes the importance of oral communication by integrating speaking and listening activities across various units. Students engage in discussions, role-plays, and presentations, which enhance their ability to articulate ideas clearly and listen attentively to others. These interactive exercises are designed to build confidence and proficiency in verbal expression.

Handwriting

- Phase 1 - Pre- Writing Skills (Nursery)

The children develop both fine and gross motor skills and are introduced to handwriting patterns.

- Phase 2 – Letter Formation – Reception / Year 1

In the Read Write Inc. scheme, children initially learn to form individual letters using specific handwriting phrases to ensure correct formation. Once they have mastered these letters, they progress to joining letters, developing a cursive handwriting style.

- Phase 3 – Introducing cursive and letter joins – Year 2

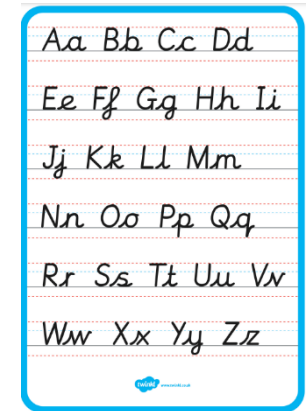
Once pupils are confident with letter formation, joins are introduced systematically

- Phase 4 - Developing Fluency and Speed – Year 3/4

By this stage, pupils should be able to write fluently using a consistent, joined style. Teaching should focus on supporting pupils writing at speed while maintaining legibility

- Phase 5 – Embedding a neat, personal handwriting style – Year 5/6

Children will apply neat, joined handwriting consistently across all subjects and be encouraged to take pride in presentation while developing their own natural style.



Writing

Writing instruction within the Hamilton Brookes framework is designed to cultivate creativity and technical proficiency. Students participate in activities that encourage them to compose narratives, reports, and poems, allowing them to express their thoughts effectively. The curriculum provides resources such as writing templates and grammar exercises to support the development of coherent and well-structured written work. Alongside content, there is a strong emphasis on handwriting and presentation, ensuring children take pride in the quality and clarity of their written work.

English Unit – Long Term Plan

Class/Cycle	Autumn 1				Autumn 2			Spring 1				Spring 2			Summer 1		Summer 2			
<p><u>Class 1:</u> <u>Reception</u></p>	Labels & Captions	Story Sequences & Captions	Lists & Story Telling	Repetitive chants & Rhymes	Lists & Labels – Autumn Leaves	Position & Descriptors – celebrating light & dark	Greetings & Letters: Christmas and Winter traditions	Traditional Tales & Labels - homes & houses	Captions & Instructions: winter days & nights	Labels & Captions – pick up a stick	Captions & Banners: Dragons & Chinese New year	Non-Fiction Texts & Stories: Dinosaurs	Lists, instructions, recipes	Captions, Labels and non-fiction: Spring	Lists, labels and instructions – growing plants	Captions, greeting cards & letters: People who help us	Labels, captions & report sequences: animals	Letters, short re-telling of fairy tales	Descriptive writing: superheroes	Lists, maps & recounts: transport
<p><u>Class 2:</u> <u>Year 1 / 2</u></p> <p><u>Cycle A</u></p>	<p>Narrative</p> <p>Fantasy Stories about Dragons</p> <p>Dragons are ancient & fascinating mythical creatures. Read, sequence, compare & review dragon stories; produce a version of Paper Bag Princess. Use noun phrases & conjunctions.</p>		<p>Non Fiction</p> <p>Instructions by Neil Gaiman</p> <p>Using Instructions by Neil Gaiman, explore reading, giving, planning and writing instructions. Learn about different sentence types and revise sentence punctuation.</p>		<p>Non Fiction</p> <p>Information Texts Pets</p> <p>Share beautifully illustrated books about pets: Dogs and Matilda's Cat by Emily Gravett, and reference texts. Write, using expanded noun phrases and sentence punctuation.</p>		<p>Poetry</p> <p>Poems on a Theme Monster Poems</p> <p>Using Poems about Monsters, children enjoy reading, discussing and writing poems about monsters. Revise grammatical terminology and expand noun phrases.</p>		<p>Non Fiction</p> <p>Information Texts Follow the Moon Home</p> <p>Read Follow the Moon Home and a book of Sea Creatures. Pick a sea creature to describe. Read biographies of Jacques Cousteau and write about the diver's life.</p>		<p>Narrative</p> <p>Stories by the Same Author</p> <p>Stories by Anthony Browne Anthony Browne's books epitomise creativity and quirkiness and will stimulate higher level writing, reading and comprehension skills. Study noun phrases and conjunctions.</p>		<p>Non Fiction</p> <p>Persuasive Writing</p> <p>Bedtime Arguments, Adverts & Letters With this relatable theme, children speak and write powerfully about bedtimes, bedroom inventions and petition for a pyjama party. Grammar includes tense and sentence forms.</p>		<p>Poetry</p> <p>Poems on a Theme Happy Poems</p> <p>Using McGough's Happy Poems, children read and write poems about pets, treasures and magic pebbles. Grammar includes apostrophes and features of written standard English.</p>					
<p><u>Class 2:</u> <u>Year 1/2</u></p> <p><u>Cycle B</u></p>	<p>Poetry</p> <p>Classic Poems Poems of Edward Lear</p> <p>Using Lear's celebrated poetry, including The Owl & the Pussycat, children are stimulated to write & explore nouns, adjectives, prepositions, & expanded noun phrases.</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p> <p>Letters and Postcards</p> <p>Excuse Letters Be inspired to write letters with fantastic excuses by J.P.N. McHennessy. Describe an adventure based on Dear Teacher by Amy Husband. Study sentences with different forms.</p>	<p>Narrative</p> <p>Familiar Settings Imaginary Creatures</p> <p>Drawing on classic picture books, sequence plots, study description and noun phrases, learn progressive forms of verbs and write stories based on The Sand Horse.</p>		<p>Non Fiction</p> <p>Animal Diaries and Recounts</p> <p>Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French. Explore conjunctions and the correct use of present and past tense. Write diary entries in role.</p>		<p>Narrative</p> <p>Traditional Tales and Fables</p> <p>Traditional Tales from Other Cultures Read and listen to different versions of Baba Yaga and Hansel and Gretel. Identify different types of sentence and study subordination and coordination. Write a traditional tale.</p>		<p>Poetry</p> <p>Poems on a Theme</p> <p>Using Poems about Monsters, children enjoy reading, discussing and writing poems about monsters. Revise grammatical terminology and expand noun phrases.</p>	<p>SPAG</p> <p>2 weeks</p>		<p>Non Fiction</p> <p>Information Texts Dinosaurs</p> <p>Using Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs, explore differences between fiction and non-fiction. Research and create fact files using noun phrases. Study sentence types.</p>		<p>Narrative</p> <p>Stories by the Same Author Lauren Child</p> <p>Explore wonderful stories about Clarice Bean and her fantastic family. Practise using commas in lists and punctuating speech. Write letters in character and write and publish a story in the style of Lauren Child.</p>						

<u>Class 3:</u> <u>Year 3/4</u> <u>Class A</u>	Fiction Fairy Tales: Alternative Versions		Non Fiction Instructions & Explanations Keeping Healthy		Fiction Fantasy Amazing Adventures	Poetry Theme: Anthologies – Poetry for Change	Non-Fiction Biographies Extra-ordinary Animals	Fiction Classic Fiction Harry’s Mad	Non-Fiction Explanations Modern Technology	Poetry Theme: Shaping the World
<u>Class 3:</u> <u>Year 3/4</u> <u>Cycle B</u>	Fiction Traditional Tales The Wolf’s Secret		Non-Fiction Information Text Water		Fiction Humorous Stories Grimwood	Poetry Theme – Michael Rosen	Non Fiction Reports & Recounts Real Life Mysteries	Fiction Stories by the same Author: Satoshi Kitamura	Non-Fiction Letters & Postcards Dragon’s Post	Poetry Theme: Humorous Poetry
<u>Class 4:</u> <u>Year 5/6</u> <u>Class A</u>	Fiction Play script Shakespeare	Information texts Kings and Queens	Poetry Poems on a theme: Hope	Fiction Historical Fiction War Horse	Non Fiction Persuasive writing Advertising influencing	Poetry Poetry on a theme: Green and blue planet.	Fiction Short stories: Happy Here	Non-Fiction Biographies : The Undefeated	Poetry Poems on a theme: Migration	
<u>Class 4:</u> <u>Year 5/6</u> <u>Cycle B</u>	Narrative Adventure Stories The Girl Who Stole and Elephant		Non Fiction Recounts Races in Frozen Places	Poetry Poems on a Theme – Diverse Voices	Fiction Science Fiction Boy in the tower	Non Fiction Reports and recounts Space (Diaries)	Poetry Poems on a theme – Portrait poems	Fiction Graphic Novels When stars are scattered	Non Fiction Instructions and explanation Adventures	Poetry Poems on a theme: I am unique