

How to Help Your Child with:



Spelling, punctuation, and grammar – often called SPaG in school – are crucial building blocks for children learning to speak, write, and listen. Having a good knowledge of grammar allows your child to communicate their ideas and feelings and helps them choose the right language for any situation.

By the end of primary school, your child will be expected to understand and be able to use all the grammar and punctuation set out in the National Curriculum. Your child will be informally tested on spelling, grammar, and punctuation by their teacher throughout their time at school and there is also a compulsory national test in May of Year 6.

In year five and six, your child is set homework on 'SPAG.com' and 'SATs BootCamp' (year 6). These quizzes and tests cover all the grammar work from previous years. Some grammar words can seem a bit daunting, but children will learn to use these types of words automatically from their reading and speaking – the tricky part is being able to recognise them. As a parent, it can be hard to support with homework due to the terminology that your child has to know.

HOW TO HELP

Read to your child and encourage your child to read

While children do learn about language from speaking and listening, the type of language we use in writing is often different from that in speech. Reading regularly to your child, especially books that they cannot yet read independently, is a great way of developing their vocabulary and their understanding of how language works.

Making time to hear your child read isn't just good for their reading. Through frequently seeing words in print, they will have the opportunity to see how the punctuation and grammar are used to share meaning.

When you read, occasionally look at the punctuation and talk about what it is telling the reader to do. For example, you could show your child how a question mark tells you to raise your voice at the end of the sentence to indicate a question being asked. Explore how you can show the 'feeling' behind an exclamation mark. Are the characters shouting? Has something unexpected happened? Has something gone wrong?

The Oxford Owl website is a great resource which outlines what learning takes place at each year along with links to a glossary and short videos.

[Grammar & punctuation at primary school | Oxford Owl](#)

Playing games can help children to learn about grammar and punctuation in an enjoyable way. BBC Bitesize also has lots of useful videos and games to support home learning:

[KS2 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

These links, overview and further resources to support are also available on the class pages on the school website. Most importantly, if you are unsure of anything, please speak to your child's class teacher as they will always be more than happy to help.