




# Spring Term English Newsletter



The Spring Term is here, bringing with it a season of creativity, imagination, and a love for words! This term, we're immersing the children in exciting reading and writing activities, supporting them as they grow into confident and expressive communicators.

## Reading for Pleasure

Encouraging a love of reading remains at the heart of our English curriculum. This term, we are focusing on:

-  **Exploring a range of genres** – from adventure stories to poetry, helping children discover books they enjoy.
-  **Building vocabulary through reading and Vocabulary Parade** – introducing new and ambitious words.
-  **Author Spotlights** – learning about famous writers and their storytelling techniques.

### Reading for Pleasure Competition

**We want to see where your child loves to read for pleasure! It could be their cozy corner, under a tree, or even a special spot at home. Send in pictures (to the office) of your child reading their favourite book, and they could win a prize!   
We can't wait to see their reading adventures! **"






### How can you help at home?

- Encourage your child to read every day—whether it's a book, a magazine, or a comic!
- Discuss new words they discover in books and encourage them to use them in conversations.
- Enjoy reading together. Give character funny voices and engage with the pictures.
- Play I Spy games – Can you find words beginning with.....? How many.....can you see?
- Visit the local library to explore new books together.

### World Book Day 2025 – Vocabulary Parade!

We are excited to celebrate **World Book Day** on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** with a **Vocabulary Parade!**

Children will:

-  **Dress up as a word!** They can choose a powerful, interesting, or unusual word and create a costume to represent it.
-  **Take part in a vocabulary challenge,** learning and using exciting new words throughout the day.
-  **Enjoy storytelling sessions, reading challenges, and creative word games.**

For more information about David Fuller and his books, please visit [www.alfie-jones.co.uk](http://www.alfie-jones.co.uk).

**To ensure your child receives their book(s) on the day of the visit, please make payment and**

**Author  
visit**



We are thrilled to welcome **David Fuller**, author of the *Alfie Jones* series, to our school on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. He will be speaking to **KS2 children** about his life as a writer and sharing insights into his books.

If you would like your child to secure a signed and dedicated copy of any of his Alfie Jones books—or the brand-new spin-off title starring Alfie's friend Chloe Reed—they are available to pre-order at the reduced price of £4.50 (usually £5).

### Story Writing Competition Winners 🏆

A huge congratulations to the winners of last term's Story Writing Competition:

👧 Idris  
👧 Ansh  
👧 Grace

Their imaginative and well-written stories impressed the judges! We look forward to seeing more fantastic writing from all our budding authors this term.

***Books are a uniquely portable magic.*** – Stephen King

📖 ***"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."*** – Jorge Luis Borges

👉 ***"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."*** – J.K. Rowling

📖 ***"The pen is mightier than the sword."*** – Edward Bulwer-Lytton

💬 ***"We read to know we are not alone."*** – C.S. Lewis



### Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar Focus abc

A strong foundation in spelling, punctuation, and grammar (SPaG) helps children become confident writers. This term, we will focus on:

- ✓ Expanding vocabulary with ambitious and exciting words.
- ✓ Understanding different sentence structures.
- ✓ Mastering punctuation rules, including speech marks and commas.

Thank you for your continued support in making reading, writing, and vocabulary development an exciting part of our children's learning journey. If you have any questions or would like book recommendations, feel free to reach out.

### Top Tips for Writing!

Writing can be an exciting adventure! Here are some top tips from authors to help young writers bring their stories to life:

#### 1. Read, Read, Read!

Great writers are great readers. Books fill your mind with ideas, exciting words, and different writing styles.

#### 2. Let Your Imagination Run Wild

There are no limits in storytelling—think of magical worlds, brave heroes, and unexpected twists!

#### 3. Show, Don't Just Tell

Instead of saying *"She was scared,"* try: *"Her hands trembled, and her heart raced like a drum."*

#### 4. Plan Before You Write

A quick plan helps! Who are the characters? Where is the story set? What happens next?

#### 5. Hook Your Reader!

Start with an exciting first line: *"The door creaked open, and glowing eyes stared at me..."*

#### 6. Use Powerful Words

Swap ordinary words for exciting ones. Instead of “walked”, try *strode, tiptoed, or dashed!*

### **7. Read Your Story Out Loud**

Does it sound exciting? Do the sentences flow? Reading aloud helps spot mistakes and improve your writing.

### **8. Edit Like a Pro**

Even famous authors rewrite their stories! Check for mistakes, add better words, and make it even better.

### **9. Surprise Your Reader**

A twist ending or unexpected moment makes stories fun to read. What if the villain turns out to be the hero?

### **10. Write Every Day**

A little writing every day helps you improve. Keep a journal, write short stories, or create fun poems! Encourage your child to have fun with writing—it’s a skill that grows with practice

<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=English+%2D+Websites&pid=82>

<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=English&pid=59>

See class pages for our reading spines (books we are using this academic year)

<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+information+%2D+Year+Groups&pid=45>

**Happy Reading, Writing, and Word Learning!**

**Thank you for your continued support.**

***Mrs Desai (English Lead)***



**READING IS PASSPORT TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES**