

What is The Write Stuff?

To hone our children's writing technique, we have adopted 'The Write Stuff' by Jane Considine. This is a systematic approach focused on collaborative writing and teacher modelling that allows children to broaden their vocabulary, improve their sentence structure and build coherence in what they write. At Henley Green, children in Years 2-6 are taught through this programme all year and Year 1 begin in the Summer term.

The programme has two different types of weeks. A collaborative "sentence stacking" week, in which children create their own and a class version of some writing with a lot of teacher input and support, and an independent week where they produce a new piece of writing that is similar in structure to that which they worked on together to display what they have learned. Within these two types of weeks, children will take part in experience days. These are practical lessons designed to immerse children in the world of their writing and to generate the vocabulary they will need to produce it successfully.

During a sentence stacking week, each lesson is split into 3 sections called learning chunks. In each learning chunk, children produce two or three sentences. These combine to make one paragraph of the overall piece of writing. For each learning chunk, the children and teacher will first collaboratively explore stimuli and the writing rainbow symbols to generate vocabulary and phrases. The teacher then models how to use what they have generated in sentences. Lastly, the children have a go at writing their own sentences for that learning chunk.

The approach teaches spelling, grammar and composition technique at the point of learning within the context of the particular genre of writing the children are created and allows abstract concepts and terminology to be understood and applied more easily. Children use the "writing rainbow" to categorise the sentences that they write and this acts a tool kit for them to plan and structure their pieces as a whole.



The writing rainbow is made up of three layers of lenses. Each lens represents a different type of sentence that the children may write:

- Fantastics** – ideas for writing
- Grammaristics** – tools for writing
- Boomtastics** – writing techniques

An individual lesson is based on one plot point (paragraph or moment) from the text, broken in to three learning chunks:

- **1. Initiate section** – a stimulus to capture the children’s imagination and set up a sentence. Children chat and jot in groups to come up with their own vocabulary and note this down on the thinking side of their page. Their suggestions are then shared with the class who can audit and add to their own list of suggestions.
- **2. Model section** – the teacher models a sentence that outlines clear writing features and techniques.
- **3. Enable section** – the children write their sentence, following the teacher’s model. More able children might decide to “deepen the moment” of writing to add more detail or another sentence relevant to the moment of the text they are writing about without moving on to the next section.

After each lesson, the teacher chooses 3 pupils who have produced excellent writing. They each have one of their chunks of writing from the lesson displayed upon the wall which builds up as the children move through writing the whole piece. By the time the children are ready to do their independent writing, they have a complete version up on the wall made up of their own sentences gathered across the unit. This creates a fantastic scaffold for them when they write independently.

After they have written their independent piece, their work is marked by the class teacher who identifies different aspects of their written piece to be edited. There are 3 elements to the editing;

E1 Edit: The Revise

Edit Type 1: These are often ‘little’ adjustments or changes and tend to fall into one of these categories; Spellings Missing words or Punctuation

E2 Edit: The Rewrite

Edit Type 2: Children are asked to re-write a sentence if it doesn’t make sense, could be restructured or generally improved.

E3 Edit: The Reimagine

This is when a writer wants to add more sentences to develop an idea further. For this the children are shown how to use ‘editing flaps’.

Editing flaps are extra pieces of paper that stick onto their writing and show the additional sentences added into their work.

The Write Stuff provides a balance of narrative, non-fiction and poetry writing throughout each term.