

## SPAG Information for Parents

### What is SPAG?

SPAG stands for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. It is a core focus of the English National Curriculum released in 2014.

### Why is Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar so important?

- Punctuation can change the meaning of a sentence greatly!
- We need to use Standard English to communicate effectively. Using incorrect punctuation, grammar and spelling can change the meaning of sentences whether spoken or written.
- Children need to use accurate SPAG to progress in life and build careers.

### What does the National Curriculum say about SPAG?

#### **Reading**

Reading is divided into two parts, word reading and comprehension.

SPAG is featured in the comprehension part as it is related to understanding of texts and reading as a whole.

#### **Writing**

Writing is divided into two parts, transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition, (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing).

"Pupils should be taught to use the elements of **spelling, grammar, punctuation and 'language about language'** listed."

"Throughout the programmes of study, teachers should teach pupils the **vocabulary** they need to discuss their reading, writing and spoken language. It is important that pupils learn the **correct grammatical terms** in English and that these terms are integrated within teaching."

### SPAG Terminology

#### Year 1

**Suffix:** A suffix is an 'ending', used at the end of one word to turn it into another word, e.g. teacherer.

**Prefix:** A prefix is added at the beginning of a word in order to turn it into another word, e.g. disappear.

**Conjunction:** A conjunction links two words or phrases together, e.g. when, and, but, because.

**Connectives:** Words/phrases that stitch meaning together between clauses, sentences, paragraphs, e.g. however, first, next, then

**Clause:** A clause is a mini sentence, a string of words that hangs together on the verb. Clauses may be main or subordinate, e.g. It was raining.

**Preposition:** When or where something happens, e.g. to, at, outside

#### Year 2

**Noun:** Nouns can be used after determiners, such as 'the' and 'a', e.g. the book. Nouns may be classified as **common** (e.g. boy, day) or **proper** (e.g. Ivan, Wednesday).

**Pronouns:** Used instead of the specific names, e.g. he, she

**Adjective:** Used before a noun, to make the noun's meaning more specific (i.e. to modify the noun), or after the verb be, as its complement.

**Adverb:** They can modify a verb, an adjective, another adverb or even a whole clause.

**Verb:** They can usually have a tense, either present or past (see also future). They usually name states or feelings rather than actions, e.g. He likes cake.

**Comma:** A comma marks a slight break between different parts of a sentence or a list.

**Apostrophe:** Used to show the place of missing letters (e.g. I'm for I am) and marking possessives (e.g. Hannah's mother).

**Homophone:** Two different words that sound the same but are spelt differently, e.g. hear, here.

**Near homophones:** Two words that are spelt the same but have different meanings.

### **Types of sentence:**

**Statement:** This type of sentence *tells you about something*, it is stating a fact! It ends with a full stop.

**Exclamation:** This type of sentence *shows a strong feeling*. It ends with an exclamation mark.

**Command:** This type of sentence *tells you to do something*. It ends with a full stop.

**Question:** This type of sentence *asks something*. It ends with a question mark.

### **Tenses:**

In English, tense is the choice between **present** and **past** verbs, which is special because it is signalled by inflections and normally indicates differences of time.

### Punctuation

**Full stop** - Used to end a sentence.

**Question Mark** - Used when a direct question is asked.

**Exclamation Mark** - Used to indicate strong feelings or a raised voice in speech.

**Inverted Commas** - (not speech marks) " " or ' '

**Commas** - Used at the end of speech and in lists

**Apostrophes** - Used to show possession or when a letter is missing.

### How will we teach SPAG?

- Using Jolly Grammar incorporated into Phonics lessons - actions, colours and terminology (in classrooms and lessons).
- Extra Phonics lessons during library time.
- Guided Reading activities
- Through foundation subjects as well as Literacy.
- Early morning activities