

Your child in Year 4

We want all of our children to develop excellent speaking and listening skills so that they become confident and effective communicators.

Communication is not taught as a discrete subject but is developed through a range of opportunities and experiences across the curriculum. We would also encourage children to develop these skills at home so it is important that families talk to their children and develop conversations with them. We will introduce them to a wide range of vocabulary and hope that during their time in Year 2, they learn lots of new words.

At Thorns, we are developing a curriculum approach that is underpinned by Chris Quigley Essentials ©; in this way we aim to develop mastery and depth of learning, rather than a 'tick list' approach. For this reason, you will notice that expectations for children look the same in years 1 & 2, years 3 & 4 and years 5 & 6. This is deliberate and does not mean that children do the same things in each of two years, it simply means that they have opportunities to revisit learning and in this way develop it further.

During their time in school we want the children to become excellent communicators.

Essential characteristics of excellent communicators:

- *An exceptional talent for listening attentively so as to understand what is being said.*
- *A rich and varied vocabulary that gives clarity and interest to conversations.*
- *Clear speech that can be easily understood by a range of audiences.*
- *An excellent grasp of the rules in English conversation, such as tenses and the grammatical structure of sentences.*
- *A highly developed ability to tell stories that capture the interest and imagination of the audience.*
- *A delight in initiating and joining in conversations.*
- *Respect for others when communicating, even when views differ.*

The children will regularly be given opportunities to progress towards proficiency in the following objectives:

Essential learning objectives

- *To listen carefully and understand*
- *To speak with clarity*
- *To hold conversations and debates*
- *To develop a wide and interesting vocabulary*
- *To tell stories with structure*

Essentials for progress: Milestone 2

To listen carefully and understand

- *Engage in discussions, making relevant points.*
- *Ask for specific additional information to clarify.*
- *Understand the meaning of some phrases beyond the literal interpretation.*

To speak with clarity

- *Use verbs with irregular endings.*
- *Use a mixture of sentence lengths to add interest to discussions and explanations*
- *Use intonation to emphasise grammar and punctuation when reading aloud.*

To hold conversations and debates

- *Make relevant comments or ask questions in a discussion or a debate.*
- *Seek clarification by actively seeking to understand others' points of view.*
- *Respectfully challenge opinions or points, offering an alternative*

To develop a wide and interesting vocabulary

- *Use time, size and other measurements to quantify.*
- *Use interesting adjectives, adverbial phrases and extended noun phrases in discussion.*
- *Use vocabulary that is appropriate to the topic being discussed or the audience that is listening.*

To tell stories with structure

- *Bring stories to life with expression and intonation.*
- *Read the audience to know when to add detail and when to leave it out.*

When sharing your child's reading book with them, please take the opportunity to discuss the story's plot, character and setting and ask them to express opinions about it.

In school, we will ensure that we take every opportunity to encourage the children to develop as communicators.

Essential opportunities

- *Engage in meaningful discussions in all areas of the curriculum.*
- *Listen to, and learn, a wide range of subject-specific vocabulary.*
- *Through reading, identify vocabulary that enriches and enlivens stories.*
- *Speak to small and larger audiences at frequent intervals.*
- *Practise and rehearse sentences and stories, gaining feedback on the overall effect and the use of standard English.*
- *Listen to, and tell, stories often so as to internalise the structure.*
- *Debate issues and formulate well-constructed points.*

Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions or would like further help or advice.

Thorns Primary School

COMMUNICATION

YEAR 4



Thorns Primary School
Thorns Road
Quarry Bank
DY5 2JY
01384 818285

Please keep this reference guide safe as it gives you an overview of the curriculum coverage for your child's year group.