ENGLISH CURRICULUM

At the heart of our English curriculum is the belief that every child should feel they belong in a community that values their voice and supports their growth. Our book-driven approach to writing places high-quality texts at the centre of learning, inspiring children to explore language, ideas in meaningful and creative ways. By engaging with a wide range of diverse literature, they not only develop a love of reading for enjoyment but also broaden their understanding of the world and their place within it.

We want our children to be active learners who are excited by challenge, confident in expressing themselves, and able to make purposeful connections across the curriculum. Through carefully planned opportunities in reading, writing, spoken language, and grammar, we ensure high standards are maintained while encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and independence. In this way, we aim to unlock the potential of every child, enabling them to succeed academically and personally, and to carry these skills into their futures as thoughtful, resilient, and articulate individuals.

Phonics and Early Reading

Through our phonics scheme, Unlocking Letters and Sounds, children begin their phonics journey in the Early Years, learning four sounds each week, progressing from Phase 2 single sounds through to Phase 5 in Year 1. They learn to blend for reading, segment for spelling and recognise Common Exception Words, building the skills needed to become confident, independent readers. All children complete the national Phonics Screening Check in Year 1.

Our reading scheme closely follows this progression, with fully decodable books carefully matched to each child's phonics knowledge. We primarily use Big Cat Collins books, ensuring children only encounter sounds they have been taught. Books are read three times: first to develop decoding, then to develop comprehension, and finally to build fluency, expression and confidence. This rigorous approach gives every child the opportunity to succeed and develop a genuine love of reading, enabling us to unlock the potential in every child.

ENGLISH

Progression of Reading Texts

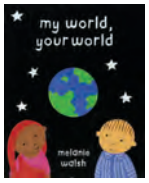
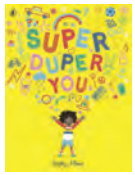
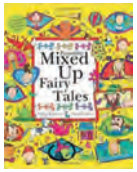
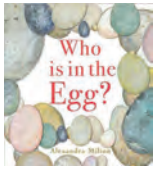
At Warden Hill, reading is at the heart of helping every child belong, explore and succeed.

We teach early reading through Unlocking Letters and Sounds, ensuring that children build strong phonics foundations. As they strengthen their phonics knowledge, they progress through book bands and, once they become fluent free readers, they are directed and guided towards high-quality texts carefully chosen by teachers.

Reading is taught predominantly through whole class sessions, where children are supported, challenged, and inspired. This approach allows every pupil to succeed as a reader and develop the confidence to explore a wide range of texts. Additional support and reading opportunities are given outside of this time to ensure we unlock the potential in every child. We strongly believe reading is the key to the wider curriculum.

We value the important partnership between school and home, encouraging children to read regularly and share books beyond the classroom. Together, we nurture children who see themselves as readers, who belong to a community that treasures books, and who develop a lifelong love of reading where reading for pleasure is paramount.

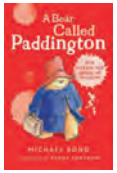
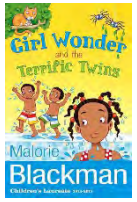
RECEPTION

 **Only One You** Linda Kranz	 **All Are Welcome** Alexndra Penfold	 DIVERSITY **My World, Your World** Melanie Walsh	 **Super Duper You** Sophy Henn	 POETRY **My Village: Rhymes from Around the World** Danielle Wright and Mique Moriuchi
 **The Wonder** Faye Hanson	 DIVERSITY **Let's Celebrate: Special Days Around the World** Kate DePalmer	 **Favourite Mixed Up Fairy Tales** Hilary Robinson and Sarah Horne, as well as Traditional	 **The Worst Princess** Anna Kemp	 **Somebody Swallowed Stanley** Sarah Roberts
 NON-FICTION **There's a T-Rex in Town** Series	 NON-FICTION **Who is in the Egg?** Alexandra Milton	 DIVERSITY **A Handful of Buttons** Carmen Parets	 NON-FICTION **Seasons Come and Seasons Go** Patricia Hegarty and Britta Teckentrup	 DIVERSITY **The Ghanaian Goldilocks** Dr Tamara Pizzoli

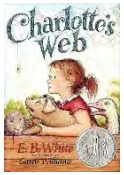
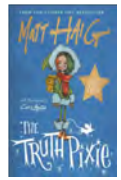
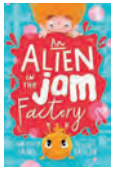
ENGLISH

Warden Hill PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR 1

 **The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark** Jill Tomlinson	 **Marv and the Pool of Peril** Alex Falase-Koya	 **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** Roald Dahl	 **Anna Hibiscus** Atinuke	 **The Hodgeheg** Dick King Smith
 **A Bear Called Paddington** Michael Bond	 **The Fox and the Star** Coralie Bickford Smith	 **Girl Wonder and the Terrific Twins** Malorie Blackman		

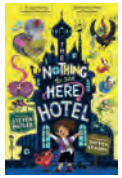
YEAR 2

 **The Boy Who Grew Dragons** Andy Shepherd	 **Charlotte's Web** E.B. White	 DIVERSITY **Planet Omar** Zanib Mian	 DIVERSITY **The Exploding Life of Scarlet Fife** Maz Evans	 **The Truth Pixie** Matt Haig
 **An Alien in the Jam Factory** Chrissie Sains				

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YEAR 3

 **The Wild Robot** Peter Brown	 DIVERSITY **Anisha the Accidental Detective** Serena Patel	 **The Nothing to See Here Hotel** Steven Butler	 DIVERSITY **Call Me Lion** Camilla Chester	 DIVERSITY **Rumaysa** Radiya Hafiza
 DIVERSITY **Dragon Mountain** Katie Tsang and Kevin Tsang				

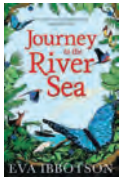
YEAR 4

 **Varjak Paw** SF Said	 **The Valley of Lost Secrets** Lesley Parr	 **The Land of Roar** Jenny McLachlan	 **Wonder** R.J.Palacio	 **The Wild Way Home** Sophie Kirtley
 **The Last Bear** Hannah Gold				

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YEAR 5

 **Malamander** Thomas Taylor	 DIVERSITY **The Boy at the Back of the Class** Onjali Q Rauf	 **Journey to the River Sea** Eva Ibbotson	 **The Boy with Big Decisions** Helen Rutter	 **Impossible Creatures** Katherine Rundell
 **Skellig** David Almond				

YEAR 6

 **Resist** Tom Palmer	 **Holes** Louis Sachar	 DIVERSITY **Show Us Who You Are** Elle McNicoll	 DIVERSITY **The Final Year** Matt Goodfellow	 **The Island at the End of Everything** Kiran Millwood Hargrave
 **Runaways** E.L. Norry				

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Warden Hill PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Writing Curriculum

At Warden Hill, our writing curriculum is rooted in our vision of unlocking the potential of every child. Through the values of belong, explore, succeed, we create a learning environment where every child feels part of a community of writers, is encouraged to explore their creativity, and is supported to succeed in their individual writing journey.

Our journey begins in Reception, where the magic and inspiration for writing starts with mark making. At this early stage, our focus is on developing the gross and fine motor skills children need to become confident writers.

Fine and gross motor development is embedded throughout our provision and forms a key part of the Physical Development Prime Area of the EYFS. Through regular 'Funky Fingers' sessions, including activities such as 'Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle' and 'Dough Disco', alongside a wide range of fine and gross motor opportunities, children are encouraged to strengthen their muscles, develop coordination and build control. These experiences are woven throughout the children's daily provision, enabling them to practise and refine their skills through purposeful play. These physical foundations support children to develop the hand strength, dexterity, pencil control and coordination needed for successful mark making, letter formation and, ultimately, fluent handwriting.

We also follow Greg Bottrill's Drawing Club approach, which combines storytelling, imagination and drawing to inspire children's writing. It gives children a meaningful purpose and ownership of what they write, allowing them to develop their own codes and ideas and sparking a real enthusiasm for writing.

We want every child to see themselves as a writer. We use the I Am A Clever Writer approach, which is built around exciting, high quality books. As a skills-based approach, it ensures children are learning, practising, and embedding writing skills within meaningful contexts—empowering them to write with confidence and creativity.

Our curriculum is designed by year group teachers to reflect the needs of our school and our learners. It is bespoke, responsive, and often builds on cross-curricular knowledge, ensuring that every child is supported and challenged appropriately. Each year group selects engaging stories and writing styles that allow children to practise new skills in purposeful ways.

I AM A CLEVER WRITER

Progression is built step by step through our Clever Writer Checklists, helping children to make clear and consistent progress in their writing, spelling, and understanding of different genres. Skills are revisited regularly, enabling children to draw on their growing writing knowledge week by week, year by year.

Every unit culminates in a much-loved Star Write Day, where children proudly demonstrate everything they've learned by producing a final piece of writing. These moments celebrate their growth and reinforce their identity as Clever Writers. Teachers model writing regularly, sharing

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the thought processes and tools needed to be successful. Teachers work carefully to support and challenge all pupils, ensuring we unlock the potential in every child.

We celebrate our children's achievements through our merit marks, recognising effort, progress, and creativity. Just like reading, writing is a shared journey at Warden Hill, where children and teachers write together, belong to a community of learners, explore ideas through language, and succeed in expressing themselves with pride and purpose.

Our skill progression documents feature a detailed breakdown of the coverage, including which years each skill can be taught.

This table outlines just a small selection of the books used in each year group:

Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	