English Musts

English must be taught daily.

Writing - 2 weekly

* A different writing genre should be taught/written every 2 weeks (see writing curriculum)
* One piece of extended writing
* One short burst write, linked to the text a week
* Two lessons looking at the features of the writing genre (one language and one structure)
* One lesson of drama, linked to the text
* One spelling lesson each week, using ‘Spelling Shed’ spelling rules
* A lesson spent planning the writing
* A lesson spent writing independently. Spend part of a lesson live modelling an example of the writing genre explaining the thought process out loud (A success criteria of the relevant features is useful for the children to refer to in their writing)
* A lesson to self and peer assess their work once the extended writing is completed

Reading

* Whole class guided reading should take place daily (starting in the Summer term for year 1).
* In FS and Year 1 3 reading sessions a week should take place using ‘Little Wandle’ which focuses on decoding, prosody and comprehension
* VIPERS questions should be used to deepen the understanding of the text and improve reading comprehension. They should be alternated so children are getting access to all. Children answer questions in reading journals. VIPERS include: vocabulary, infer, predict, explain, retrieve and summarise.
* In KS1 and KS2 the class teacher should hear each child read at least once a week and this should be recorded in a mark book. In FS – Year 5, the child’s reading record should also be signed.
* Phonics should be taught every day using Little Wandle in Foundation Stage and Year 1

Spelling

* Spelling should be taught once a week using ‘Spelling Shed’
* Opportunities should be given throughout the week for the children to practice the spelling rule
* Children should be given spellings to learn each week, using the spelling rules
* Spellings should be tested each week and marks recorded in the teacher's mark book

Handwriting

* Handwriting should be taught 3 times a week in KS1 and 2 times a week in Red Kites and Kingfishers
* In Golden Eagles, teacher judgement should be used for handwriting lessons and interventions should be used for those who need it
* Handwriting lessons should include modelling and then checking each child’s work as they practise to prevent learnt mistakes with letter formation or joining
* From KS1 all staff must model continuous cursive handwriting at all time
* Children in FS will use printed handwriting until secure with fine motor skills and letter formation

Working Wall

* Everything on the working wall should be large enough for the children to see and refer to
* Relevant vocabulary for the current topic, text or writing genre
* Features of current writing genre
* That week’s spelling rule and examples.
* Relevant SPaG definitions and examples
* Brilliant examples of children’s work or shared writing