

Blue Coat's English Curriculum 2026/27

Our Christian Values

'With God all things are possible' - Matthew 19:26

Our Christian Values of Joy, Wisdom and Courage are at the centre of our English curriculum- these values are reflected in our 'Big Questions' for each unit.. Overall, we aim to:

- Foster **wisdom** through critical reading, comprehension, and expressive writing.
- Build **courage** by empowering children to speak publicly and write creatively.
- Spark **joy** through a lifelong love of literature.

Our Writing Lessons

At Blue Coat CE Junior School, we implement *The Write Stuff* by Jane Considine. Units of work begin with experience days to immerse the children in drama, music, or other physical experiences to give them a tangible purpose for their writing. We then use the 'sentence stacking' method to create a shared write, breaking down lessons into manageable, highly-modelled chunks. This ensures that children gain a stronger understanding of the 'whole' piece of text, whilst also building their confidence in sentence structure and paragraph cohesion. These lessons are interspersed with grammar, punctuation and spelling lessons that all feed into the children planning, drafting, editing and revising their independent writing. Following this, the children create an additional piece of independent writing utilising some of the key skills from the unit in a different context.

Our Reading Lessons

A unit lasts around 5 weeks. Each week, children will read a new text or extract that will support their knowledge and understanding of the unit. We aim to include a mixture of fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Reading for Pleasure

Our class texts are for reading for pleasure. Texts have been selected to engage our pupils, develop their love of reading and give them an experience of the world beyond their friends, family and school community.

Year 3

Big Question	Unit	Writing Outcome 1	Writing Outcome 2	Class Texts
<i>Consider Plop's journey: How can I learn to celebrate the joy in everyone's unique strengths and differences?</i>	<i>The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark</i> by Jill Tomlinson	Adventure narrative (fiction)	Diary entry (non-fiction)	<u>Novels</u> <i>The Boy Who Grew Dragons</i> by Andy Shepherd <i>The Pied Piper of Hamlen</i> retold by Michael Morpurgo <i>The BFG</i> by Roald Dahl <i>Theseus and the Minotaur</i> retold by Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden <u>Picture Books</u> <i>How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth</i> by Michelle Robinson <i>The Silence Seekers</i> by Ben Morley <i>Cloud Tea Monkeys</i> by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham
<i>How can we as writers use wisdom to communicate facts accurately?</i>	<i>The Ultimate Book of Big Cats</i> by Steve Winter	Non-chronological report (non-fiction)	'Adopt a Big Cat' persuasive advert (non-fiction)	
<i>Let's step into the 'villain's' shoes: Whose voice should we trust when we need to find the truth? (Wisdom)</i>	<i>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs</i> by Jon Scieszka	Traditional tale (fiction)	Wanted poster for a character from a traditional tale (non-fiction)	
<i>Lydia Grace is brave to leave home: In what other ways does she demonstrate courage?</i>	<i>The Gardener</i> by Sarah Stewart	Letter (non-fiction)	Instructions (non-fiction)	
<i>Put yourself in the shoes of the Athenian citizens watching the ships leave for Crete.: How was families letting their children go, a true act of courage?</i>	<i>Theseus and the Minotaur</i> retold by Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden	Myth (fiction)	Setting description (fiction)	
<i>Filmmakers use colour and music to show when characters are feeling joyful compared to when they are sad: How is this true in Blue Umbrella?</i>	Blue Umbrella (film)	Romance narrative (fiction)	Postcard (non-fiction)	

Year 3/4

Big Question	Unit	Writing Outcome 1	Writing Outcome 2	Class Texts
<i>Learning to read can be tricky, and it takes time and effort: How does Henry show a growth mindset? (Courage)</i>	<i>The Incredible Book Eating Boy</i> by Oliver Jeffers	Comedy narrative (fiction)	Persuasive advert (non-fiction)	<u>Novels</u> <i>There's a Pharoah in the Bath</i> by Jeremy Strong <i>Krindlekrax</i> by Phillip Ridley <i>The Journal of Iliona: A Young Slave</i> by Richard Platt <i>James and the Giant Peach</i> by Roald Dahl <u>Picture Books</u> <i>Stone Age Boy</i> by Satoshi Kitamura <i>Escape from Pompeii</i> by Christina Balit
<i>Listening to different people's point of view shows true wisdom: How can we gain knowledge by considering both sides of an argument?</i>	Should We Feed Animals at National Parks?	Balanced argument (non-fiction)	Letter (non-fiction)	
<i>The boy and Om cannot speak the same language, yet they laugh and play together: Despite our differences, how can friendship bring joy?</i>	<i>Stone Age Boy</i> by Satoshi Kitamura	Historical narrative (fiction)	Postcard (non-fiction)	
<i>In advertising, joy is enthusiasm: How can persuasive writing be seen as a way to share happiness with others?</i>	An Alternative to Plastic Straws	Persuasive advert (non-fiction)	Setting description (fiction)	
<i>James and Winston form a bond over food: Where else do the characters find joy throughout the film?</i>	Feast (film)	Narrative (fiction)	Trip Advisor review (non-fiction)	
<i>How does Iliona show that knowledge and wisdom are forms of power?</i>	<i>The Journal of Iliona: A Young Slave</i> by Richard Platt	Diary (non-fiction)	Character description (fiction)	

Year 4

Big Questions	Unit	Writing Outcome 1	Writing Outcome 2	Class Texts
<i>Think about the Wellington family's chaotic, yet loving and joyful family life against the greed of the wealthy chocolate factory owners: Can the simple things in life bring us more joy than the things we buy?</i>	<i>The Great Chocoplot</i> by Chris Callaghan	Mystery narrative (fiction)	Balanced argument (non-fiction)	<u>Novels</u> <i>The Great Chocoplot</i> by Chris Callaghan <i>The Iron Man</i> by Ted Hughes <i>Kaspar, Prince of Cats</i> by Michael Morpurgo <u>Picture Books</u> <i>Winter's Child</i> by Angela McAllister <i>The Lion and the Unicorn</i> by Shirley Hughes <i>Until I Met Dudley</i> by Roger McGough
<i>Authors bring joy to the reader by building new worlds and playing with words (to name a few!): How does your favourite author bring happiness to you?</i>	Inviting an Author	Persuasive letter (non-fiction)	Recount (non-fiction)	
<i>Consider the Iron Man's journey throughout the book: In what ways does creating a world filled with understanding and compassion take more courage than creating one filled with violence?</i>	<i>The Iron Man</i> by Ted Hughes	Science-fiction narrative (fiction)	Explanation (non-fiction)	
<i>Social media games are designed to keep you hooked: whilst fake news distorts the truth: Is it wiser to ban something completely or become more informed of the potential dangers?</i>	Ban on Social Media for Under 13s	Article (non-fiction)	Short story (fiction)	
<i>Joy can be found in nature: How is this true for Tom (and for you)?</i>	<i>Winter's Child</i> by Angela McAllister	Narrative (fiction)	Letter (non-fiction)	
<i>Wisdom is about accepting and respecting other people's differences: How can studying other countries, places and cultures allow us to do this?</i>	Holiday Brochure	Persuasive brochure (non-fiction)	Diary (non-fiction)	

Year 5

Big Questions	Unit	Writing Outcome 1	Writing Outcome 2	Class Texts
<i>Leo experiences racism and prejudice: In what ways can looking at choices made in the past, give us the wisdom and understanding to make better choices today?</i>	<i>The Lion Above the Door</i> by Onjali Q Rauf	Family narrative (fiction)	Article (non-fiction)	<u>Novels</u> <i>The Lion Above the Door</i> by Onjali Q Rauf <i>Beowulf</i> by Michael Morpurgo <i>The Jamie Drake Equation</i> by Christopher Edge <u>Picture Books</u> <i>King Kong</i> by Anthony Browne <i>The Man Who Walked Between the Towers</i> by Mordicai Gerstein
<i>Not having the latest smartphone or being active on group chats may make you feel isolated: How can it take courage to step away from technology when necessary?</i>	Screen Use	Balanced argument (non-fiction)	Short story (fiction)	
<i>Consider the strong bond between the boy and the snowman: Can joy exist in moments of sadness and loss?</i>	<i>The Snowman</i> by Raymond Briggs (book and film)	Festive narrative (fiction)	Instructions (non-fiction)	
<i>Astronauts who have ventured into space often talk about a powerful sense of wonder and awe: How can realising that you are a small part of a massive universe bring joy?</i>	Mars Transmission	Journal (non-fiction)	Non-chronological report (non-fiction)	
<i>The man plays the piano to show both sad and happy memories: Why is it wise to remember both the good and difficult parts of our lives?</i>	The Piano (film)	First-person narrative (fiction)	Explanation (non-fiction)	
<i>Azzi is caught between her old life (which is gone) and her new life (which is unfamiliar): How does this take a tremendous amount of courage to face?</i>	Refugees	Speech (non-fiction)	Formal letter (non-fiction)	

Year 6

Big Questions	Unit	Writing Outcome 1	Writing Outcome 2	Reading for Pleasure
<i>The Nowhere Emporium is filled with awe, wonder and magic at every turn, but is joy something we simply discover, or something we create for ourselves and for others?</i>	<i>The Nowhere Emporium</i> by Ross MacKenzie	Mystery narrative (fiction)	Formal letter of complaint (non-fiction)	<u>Novels</u> <i>The Nowhere Emporium</i> by Ross MacKenzie <i>Grimm Tales</i> by Phillip Pullman <i>Kensuke's Kingdom</i> by Michael Morpurgo <i>The Unforgotten Coat</i> by Frank Cottrell Boyce <u>Picture Books</u> <i>Can We Save the Tiger?</i> by Martin Jenkins <i>The Lost Happy Endings</i> by Caroline Duffy <i>Firebird</i> by Juliette Cross <i>The Journey</i> by Frenchi Sanna
<i>These fairy tale characters have made poor choices that have resulted in them being sent to prison: How can we ensure we have the wisdom to demonstrate expected behaviours despite the temptation to do otherwise?</i>	Postcard from Prison	Postcard (non-fiction)	Balanced argument (non-fiction)	
<i>For this monumental event to occur, both sides had to believe the other wouldn't open fire: What kind of courage does it take to trust someone you believe to be your enemy?</i>	The Christmas Truce (film)	Recount- diary (non-fiction)	Short story using dialogue to advance the action (fiction)	
<i>The creature's world has been ruined, yet it still finds a small sense of joy looking at the plant: How can we find tiny 'sparks of joy' in our lives?</i>	Varmints (film)	Environmental story (fiction)	Persuasive advert (non-fiction)	
<i>Penguins cannot fight the Antarctic blizzards; they can only wait until they pass: How can resilience, patience and endurance be considered acts of courage?</i>	Emperor Penguins	Non-chronological report (non-fiction)	Character description (fiction)	
<i>Alma didn't demonstrate the wisdom and courage not to enter the shop: What does</i>	Alma (film)	Spooky narrative (fiction)	Script for a police interview (non-fiction)	

<i>it take to walk away from something dangerous but exciting?</i>				
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