

The Teaching of Grammar at
Muskhams Primary School

Year 2



We teach grammar at Muskham using the Rainbow Grammar approach.

What is Rainbow Grammar?

Rainbow grammar breaks down sentences into coloured sections; these colours are used to teach the children the underlying structure of sentences. This allows children to imitate the patterns and apply them to new contexts.

Our grammar curriculum ensures these structures are taught using a systematic approach; each year the children build on previous knowledge.

Previous learning in Foundation and Year 1:

Subject Verb Stop

Prepositional phrase Fronted Adverbial

Coordinating Conjunction - and, but

Last night, the moon shone in the sky and I saw some stars too.

Year 2

Time connective Fronted adverbial of manner

Silently, a bat flew across the sky.

Yesterday, I visited my aunty.

Coordinating conjunctions: or, so

The grey clouds covered the moon so the night turned black.

Subordinating conjunctions : When, if, because
to create a Subordinate clause

When the pale moon shone brightly, soft light covered everything.

The girl was crying because her friends wouldn't play with her.

You can play if you do your homework.

Words and phrases

Proper nouns : Nottingham, Sherwood Forest

Adjectives : shape and character

The fat cat squeezed through the narrow cat flap.

The brave knight killed the cruel knight.

Expanded noun phrases:

Adjectives before the noun

the tiny, little bird

Additional information after the noun

The cat in the hat

The cat in the hat stepped on the mat.

Determiners - building on 'a' and 'the'

Numerical determiners:

Jim bought nine cakes and fourteen tarts from the bakery.

Apostrophes

For contraction : don't, didn't, I'll, we've

For possession: Sally's dog

Question words

Question Word	Answer	Example
how	explanation the way something is done	How did the accident happen? How did Jim eat the whole pie?
what	thing	What is the time?
when	time	When did the Romans invade Britain?
where	place	Where were you this morning?
who	person	Who ate my sandwich?
why	reason	Why is Jim wearing two hats?

Verbs

An auxiliary verb is a verb that is placed before the main verb and changes the tense or mood.

The structure helper verb + main verb can be thought of as a verb chain.

My pet giraffe is eating breakfast in the kitchen.

helper verb = is main verb = eating verb chain = is eating

Jim was washing his underpants in the bath.

helper verb = was main verb = washing
verb chain = was washing

The progressive (also referred to as the continuous) form of a verb and describes an action in progress. It is formed by using the auxiliary (helper) verb to be (*am, are, is, was, were*) followed by the present participle (using the *-ing* suffix) form of the main verb.

	Past Progressive		Present Progressive	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 st person	I was walking	We were walking	I am walking	We are walking
2 nd person	You were walking	You were walking	You are walking	You are walking
3 rd person	He was walking She was walking It was walking	They were walking	He is walking She is walking It is walking	They are walking

Imperative form of verbs for commands.

Statement: **Jim** **dances** in his underpants.

Command: **Dance** in your underpants!

The children learn 4 types of sentences:

Statements, questions, commands and
exclamations

