

YEAR 3

Term 1 and Term 2

Year 3 pupils start with the phonics, learning the vowels first. They practise these using a variety of activities. They learn the numbers 1-12 and how to ask and give their age. Then they learn the other key phonic sounds. They read rhyming stories, sing songs, practise tongue twisters and have further opportunities to make the sound-written link by listening to words and anticipating their spelling. They also learn some nouns (pencil case items). They are made aware of gender through colour coding. They use the verb forms 'j'ai - I have', 'il/elle est - it is' and implicitly encounter the negative forms of these.

Term 3 and Term 4

The theme is animals and colours. The linguistic focus is gender, articles (definite & indefinite), plurals and adjectives (position & basic agreement). The grammatical concepts are all based around a core vocabulary of 9 animal nouns and 6 colours so nothing so becomes too difficult. The key verbs are 'il/elle est' (he/she/it is), 'ils sont' (they are), il y a (there is/are). The negative is revisited and there is also a subtle introduction to 'aussi' (also/too/as well), 'mais' (but).

Pupils are encouraged at all times to strive to work things out for themselves, work in pairs and small groups sharing knowledge, and to speak aloud when possible - thereby building confidence. Pronunciation, memory, pattern finding, sentence building, autonomy, performance and creativity are the concepts at the heart of this unit of work.

Term 5 and Term 6

This unit focuses on memory and performance in that it asks pupils to retell a familiar story - The Very Hungry Caterpillar - in French. Pupils are first introduced to useful vocabulary from the story - numbers, days of the week, fruits, foods - and then introduced to the story in video and audio format. After several activities developing memory and practising pronunciation, pupils will hopefully feel confident enough to retell the story in one of a variety of verbal ways - with pictures, with video, or with video and subtitles (for those who need the written back-up for now). The idea is that everyone can have a go and feel successful.