

KS2 English Curriculum - Autumn Term 2026

Revised for a 3-Year Rolling Programme | Ages 7-11 | 28 x 45-minute sessions

2 sessions per week | Half term: 26-30 October | Approx. 30 mins interactive English + 15 mins shared reading

Sess.	Unit	30-min lesson	Curriculum objectives	15-min reading focus
1	Mystery, Suspense & Secret Codes	What Makes a Mystery?	Explore mysterious openings and images. Identify clues, distinguish what is known from what is inferred, and make evidence-based predictions.	Prediction - use clues in a short mystery extract to predict what may happen next.
2	Mystery, Suspense & Secret Codes	Mystery Vocabulary	Explore synonyms and shades of meaning such as strange, peculiar, suspicious, sinister and eerie. Select vocabulary for atmosphere and effect.	Vocabulary in context - work out unfamiliar words using surrounding text.
3	Mystery, Suspense & Secret Codes	Creating Suspense	Compare ordinary and suspenseful versions of events. Explore powerful verbs, sensory vocabulary, sentence length and punctuation.	Author's choices - identify words and phrases used to build tension.
4	Mystery, Suspense & Secret Codes	Be a Reading Detective	Retrieve clues, infer motives and separate facts from assumptions in a fictional mystery. Justify ideas using evidence.	Inference - answer 'How do you know?' questions using textual evidence.
5	Mystery, Suspense & Secret Codes	Crack the Code!	Solve language and vocabulary codes using synonyms, antonyms, definitions, context and spelling patterns.	Context clues - deduce meanings of unknown words and phrases.
6	Mystery, Suspense & Secret Codes	Riddles, Clues & Double Meanings	Explore riddles, ambiguity, homophones and multiple meanings. Identify which words provide crucial clues.	Inference and word meaning - explain how clues lead to an answer.
7	Mystery, Suspense & Secret Codes	Red Herrings & Misleading Clues	Evaluate evidence and distinguish relevant clues from deliberate distractions. Develop deduction and reasoning through an interactive case.	Retrieval - locate key details quickly and decide which are significant.
8	Mystery, Suspense & Secret Codes	Solve the Mystery!	Apply retrieval, inference, prediction, vocabulary and deduction in a full interactive mystery or secret mission.	Summarising - identify the most important information and explain the solution.
9	Wonderful Words, Humour & Wordplay	Why Is That Funny?	Explore how writers create humour using exaggeration, unexpected meanings, word choice and comic situations.	Author's purpose - identify how and why a writer creates humour.
10	Wonderful Words, Humour & Wordplay	Puns, Homophones & Double Meanings	Explore puns, homophones and deliberately ambiguous sentences. Explain how changes in meaning create humour or confusion.	Vocabulary - identify intended meanings from context.
11	Wonderful Words, Humour & Wordplay	Idioms Gone Wrong!	Compare literal and figurative meanings of common idioms. Explore why figurative expressions cannot always be understood word-for-word.	Figurative language - interpret idioms and expressions within a short text.
12	Wonderful Words, Humour & Wordplay	Wonderful Words	Use synonym battles, vocabulary ladders and shades-of-meaning challenges to develop precise and ambitious vocabulary.	Word choice - explain why an author selected a particular word.
13	Wonderful Words, Humour & Wordplay	Playing With Figurative Language	Explore age-appropriate simile, metaphor and personification through images, examples and quick interactive challenges.	Imagery - identify what a comparison or image helps the reader imagine.
14	Wonderful Words, Humour & Wordplay	The Ultimate Word Challenge	Consolidate synonyms, antonyms, idioms, homophones, figurative language and vocabulary through interactive games and puzzles.	Mixed vocabulary - use context, word knowledge and author choices to answer questions.
15	Characters, Voices & Viewpoints	Character Detective	Infer personality, feelings and motives from actions, dialogue, appearance and behaviour. Support ideas with evidence.	Character inference - retrieve evidence that supports an interpretation.
16	Characters, Voices & Viewpoints	Show Me, Don't Tell Me	Explore how writers reveal feelings through actions, expressions, body language and speech rather than naming emotions directly.	Show not tell - identify textual clues revealing a character's feelings.
17	Characters, Voices & Viewpoints	What Does Dialogue Tell Us?	Infer relationships and personality from dialogue. Revisit age-appropriate conventions of direct speech and punctuation.	Dialogue inference - infer emotions and relationships from what characters say.
18	Characters, Voices & Viewpoints	Creating a Character Voice	Explore how vocabulary, sentence choices and speech can make characters sound different. Compare formal, informal, confident and nervous voices.	Voice - identify words and phrases that reveal personality or attitude.
19	Characters, Voices & Viewpoints	Whose Story Is It?	Recognise first- and third-person narration and explore how viewpoint affects what a reader knows.	Viewpoint - identify whose perspective a text is told from and how you know.
20	Characters, Voices & Viewpoints	Same Event, Different Viewpoint	Compare the same event described by two characters. Explore how vocabulary and selected details reveal different attitudes.	Comparison - identify similarities and differences between two accounts.
21	Characters, Voices & Viewpoints	Reading Between the Lines	Develop deeper inference from character behaviour, speech and reactions. Explore what is implied rather than explicitly stated.	Inference - justify interpretations using precise evidence.
22	Characters, Voices & Viewpoints	The Character & Viewpoint Challenge	Apply character inference, dialogue, voice and viewpoint skills to unfamiliar extracts and interactive scenarios.	Mixed comprehension - character, inference, viewpoint and evidence.
23	English Detectives: Grammar & Language	The Case of the Broken Sentences	Recognise complete sentences and fragments. Explore clauses, conjunctions and sentence construction at an appropriate level for ages 7-11.	Fluency - explore how sentence boundaries and punctuation guide reading.
24	English Detectives: Grammar & Language	The Missing Punctuation Mystery	Find and repair punctuation crimes, differentiated from capitals and full stops through commas, apostrophes, speech marks, colons and semicolons.	Punctuation for meaning - investigate how punctuation changes interpretation.
25	English Detectives: Grammar & Language	Word-Class Detectives	Identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, determiners, prepositions and conjunctions within meaningful sentences and clues.	Grammar in context - investigate how words function within real texts.
26	English Detectives: Grammar &	Ambiguous! What Does It Mean?	Explore how grammar, punctuation and vocabulary can make sentences unclear or	Reading for meaning - explain different possible

	Language		create multiple meanings. Repair sentences for clarity.	interpretations of a sentence.
27	English Detectives: Grammar & Language	The Christmas Grammar Mystery	Apply grammar, punctuation, vocabulary and inference to a festive interactive mystery or puzzle challenge.	Seasonal reading - retrieval, vocabulary and inference using a winter or Christmas extract.
28	English Detectives: Grammar & Language	The Great KS2 English Challenge	Consolidate Autumn learning through mystery clues, wordplay, vocabulary, character, viewpoint, grammar and punctuation challenges.	Reading for enjoyment - finish with an engaging seasonal story or extract.

Delivery approach: The first 30 minutes are fast-paced, interactive and discussion-led, using Zoom chat, quick-fire responses, games, inference, vocabulary challenges, sentence improvement and collaborative problem solving. Extended writing is minimised during live lessons and can be offered as optional follow-up work.

Mixed-age differentiation (7-11): All pupils access the same stimulus, with questioning layered by ability. Younger pupils may identify, select and suggest; older or more confident pupils explain effects, justify interpretations, manipulate sentence structures and evaluate author choices.

Three-year rolling approach: This revised term deliberately develops four substantial strands in greater depth. Advertising, persuasion, information texts, speeches, poetry and other major English strands are retained for future terms and years. Reading, spelling, grammar, punctuation, vocabulary and comprehension are revisited throughout the three-year cycle in different contexts.