



Section 2

Developing writing

The activities in this section will help the children to develop their understanding of the language and organisation of news stories and articles, and of editorial decisions and values. They also provide opportunities for the children to practise journalistic skills. They highlight particular elements of journalistic writing, enabling the children to focus on and explore them in depth. Some activities involve working with and analysing given texts; others give them opportunities to compose their own. They involve some whole-class work and discussion, and also individual or paired work. The subject matter of all the activities, except the first, relates to events, people, places and issues that are likely to be familiar to the children.

Writers' knowledge

The knowledge and skills children will need for writing effective news stories include:

- knowledge of purpose: for example, to recount events of interest to the public; to inform about people, places and events; to comment on events and actions.
- understanding the generic structure of news stories: for example, an opening to attract readers' attention; organisation of key facts and information; devices to lead the reader through a news story such as subheadings, paragraphs.
- familiarity with specific language features, such as use of tenses, quotations, comment and opinion.

Gathering knowledge

Throughout this section, encourage the children to become familiar with the various forms of news stories and journalistic text by noting examples from other news stories they have come across. These can include newspapers, magazines, online, radio or TV news stories, and newsletters. As well as collecting examples, the children could write brief reviews of news stories they have seen or heard.

Spend a shared session exploring which news stories the children find most interesting or effective. Encourage them to ask: *Who? What? Where? When? Why?* when exploring such stories.

Encourage the children to be 'critical readers'. Explore news stories to find evidence of bias and the author's opinion.



Activity breakdown

Structure

- Newsworthy (page 20)
- School news (page 21)
- Lead sentences (page 22)
- Reporter's notebook (page 23)
- News in brief (page 24)
- Planning a news story (page 24)

Languages

- Balanced reporting (page 20)
- Writing headlines (page 21)
- Headline words (page 22)
- Interviews (page 23)