Walton's approach to Writing – EYFS and KS1

Introduction
In EYFS and KS1, we follow Pie Corbett's Talk for Writing as an approach to writing. This approach focuses on scaffolding children's learning to enable them to write coherently, with confidence and with individuality. This approach aims to help children structure their sentences and writing sequences through text-mapping, storytelling and innovating based on an original writing model (for example: a traditional tale).

What is Talk for Writing?
"Talk for Writing is an engaging teaching framework developed by Pie Corbett, supported by Julia Strong. It is powerful because it is based on the principles of how children learn. It enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally, before reading and analysing it, and then writing their own version." (https://www.talk4writing.com/).

Stage 1 = 'Cold' task
Stage 2 = Imitation
Stage 3 = Innovation
Stage 4 = 'Hot' task

Structure of Talk for Writing
These stages are taught over 3-4 weeks and aim to explore several models of the text type that is being taught. At least two 'Hot' tasks will be completed by the end of a topic which are assessed by the class teacher.

Stage 1
At this stage, the children are asked to complete a 'cold' task. This is a writing task in the style of the text that is going to be studied over the unit of work. The children are asked to write a text without any input from the teacher. This forms a baseline assessment of what each child can do and informs the teacher's planning for the rest of the writing unit.

Stage 2
The teaching starts with an exciting 'hook' to get the children excited about the text type they are studying. A model text is used and is pitched above the children's level and certain writing features and vocabulary are built into it. The children begin to learn this model text off-by-heart using text- mapping (pictures), actions and oral re-telling.

Stage 3
This stage is all about the children creating a new piece of writing based on the model text they have been studying in phase 2. The children will be encouraged to change elements of the model text to create their own and they will 'magpie' language and structure from the model. They will be encouraged to orally rehearse their sentences, create a text-map with pictures and create actions to help them memorise and structure their own piece of writing.

Stage 4
The final stage of the writing unit is the 'hot' task. This is an independent writing task that the children complete based on what they have learnt about the given text type. At this point, the children are encouraged to use the structure and language of the model but embellish it and change it so that it has a significantly unique feel to it. This 'hot' task is then used by teachers to assess the children's progress in writing.

Skills taught in EYFS
To ensure that children have the necessary skills for writing when they enter year 1, the following skills are taught in EYFS:

- To hold a pencil effectively (using the tripod grip in most cases)
- To write recognisable letters
- Spell words by identifying sounds
- Write simple phrases and sentences
- Invent, adapt and recount narratives

Skills taught in EYFS continued

- Use recently-introduced vocabulary during group discussions
- Express ideas and feelings about experiences making use of: full sentences; past, present and future tenses; conjunctions.
- Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling
- Perform songs, rhymes and poems

These skills are taught through carefully planned teacher-led activities and consolidated through continuous provision.