For each writing unit teachers plan the vocabulary to be taught. We use the tiered format to plan ambitious and technical words relevant for each year group and subject. Vocabulary for each unit is listed on planning and displayed on English working walls.

**Tier 1 words**

The simplest tier – these are words that most learners will pick up through natural, everyday conversation. They include common nouns like ‘clock’, ‘chair’ or ‘house’, verbs like ‘walk’ and ‘run’, or adjectives like ‘sad’ and ‘happy.’ These words don’t normally require explicit teaching.

**Tier 2 words**

Tier 2 words are ambitious words, such as ‘emerge’, ‘seize’, ‘peculiar’ and ‘hostile’, that learners are likely to come across in a variety of contexts and across all subjects, but aren’t used much in everyday conversation. These words “are not the most basic or common ways of expressing ideas, but they are familiar to mature language users as ordinary as opposed to specialised language.” For example, the Tier 2 word ‘soar’ can add more sophistication and specificity to a learner's understanding of the word ‘fly’. They will be able to understand that soaring isn’t just flying, but flying very high in the air.

**Tier 3 words**

Tier 3 words are subject-specific, used within a particular field. This is the language of scientists, mathematicians, historians, and literary critics. For maths, this includes words like ‘denominator’, while science lessons might require learners to understand ‘opaque’. Often, these words are integral to teaching content for certain subjects.

