



English at Fairford

Intent

At Fairford C of E Primary School we believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. Reading, and high quality literature, lies at the heart of our English curriculum. We aim to inspire a passion for reading and for our children to develop the habit of reading not only often, but widely. We want our pupils to become lifelong readers. We value reading as a life skill and is a key for academic and life success. We prioritise the teaching of phonics to ensure that all children have sound phonic knowledge, understanding and skills so that they can decode words with confidence. These fundamental skills not only hold the keys to the rest of the curriculum, but also have a huge impact on children's independence when accessing the world around them. We want pupils to confidently communicate their knowledge, ideas and feelings through their writing. We want them to write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences. We believe that writing is a process and our pupils will be writers who refine and edit their writing over time. We want children to develop independence when writing. We nurture a culture where children take pride in their work. Fairford C of E Primary School pupils receive a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. We want to encourage confidence in the art of speaking and listening and inspire children to use discussion to communicate and further their learning. We firmly believe that a secure understanding of English skills is crucial to a high quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

Implementation

These aims are embedded across our English lessons and the wider curriculum. We have a rigorous and well organised English curriculum that provides purposeful opportunities for reading, writing and discussion. We want all of our pupils to be capable readers, writers, spellers and speakers, who can transfer their English skills to other curriculum subjects and who are prepared for their next steps in their education. Our English lessons develop learner's spoken language, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary. We teach our pupils to speak clearly, to convey their ideas fluently and confidently and to ask questions.

We use Essential Letters and Sounds, a validated systematic synthetic phonics programme in EYFS and Year 1. They have access to high quality reading books matched to their phonic knowledge in order to be able to read with confidence, fluency and success. All readers will receive support relevant to their stage, with high expectations for all. Children develop reading skills, as well as a passion for reading. Pupils develop VIPERS reading skills and are explicitly taught fluency skills from Year 1. The high quality texts that we use as a driver for our English curriculum, motivate and inspire our children. We know the value of excellent vocabulary and this is developed and practised across our curriculum constantly from their early days with us.

We develop writing skills so that our children have the stamina and ability to write at the age expected standard or above and support each individual writer based on their starting point. We encourage children to see themselves as authors and poets, promoting the process of writing and the importance of written work having a purpose and an audience. Writing is based around a quality text to provide a motivating context, or to inspire writing. Drawing Club has been introduced in our reception classes as a way to excite, stimulate and enthuse our youngest writers. The children's creativity and imagination are the centre of these sessions, immersing them into a world of



possibility. Handwriting sessions are incorporated into English lessons and for Reception and Year 1, as part of the ESL sessions as well.

Our curriculum follows the aims of the National Curriculum for English 2014.

The National Curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Read easily, fluently and with good understanding.
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information.
- Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.
- Appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage.
- Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.
- Use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas.
- Are competent in the art of speaking and listening, making formation presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

We also provide a wealth of enrichment opportunities, from hosting our own Writing Festival, Reading Space, World Book Day, poetry and writing competitions. We visit the Cheltenham Literature Festival as well as our local Fairford Fiction Festival, we welcome authors into school as often as we can ensuring children benefit from access to positive role models from the local and wider locality.

All pupils receive an inclusive curriculum and have access to Quality First Teaching

Impact

As a result we have a community of enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their developing English knowledge and skills. They are confident to take risks in their reading and writing, and love to discuss and share their ideas. We have a community of talkers – with a rich vocabulary and understanding of oracy skills. The direct impact on our children is clear: progress, sustained learning and transferrable English skills.

By the time children leave Fairford C of E Primary they are competent readers; who can recommend books to their peers, have a thirst for reading a range of genres and participate in discussions about books including evaluating an author's use of language and the impact this can have on the reader. As writers they have the confidence to write independently and fluently for varying audiences and purposes, see writing as a process and edit their own writing and draw on their reading to include a rich vocabulary used to add impact and effect.

"Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing."

--Benjamin Franklin