

English at Wallsend Jubilee Primary

We believe that literacy and communication are key life skills. Through the English curriculum, we will help children to develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively through spoken and written language and equip them with the skills to become lifelong learners. We want children to enjoy and appreciate literature and its rich variety.

The English curriculum is delivered using the National Curriculum English Document (2014). The Early Learning Goals are followed to ensure continuity and progression from the Early Years Foundation stage through to the National Curriculum. Teachers group children according to their abilities and work should be differentiated accordingly using effective methods such as support, outcome and task. Where appropriate, literacy units will link to creative curriculum themes to promote cross curricular learning.

Reading is an important part of the English curriculum in our School.

Our Reading aims are:

- To develop phonetic skills which lead to blending and reading accurately and fluently.
- To promote confidence and positive attitudes to reading through access to a wide range of literature.
- To develop their vocabulary and comprehension of what they have read.
- To encourage good home/school partnerships.
- To enable children to analyse what they read and to participate in discussion and debate about texts.
- To monitor each child's progress through the use of a range of assessment strategies e.g. Reading Age tests.
- To support those children who require additional support with their reading.

Reading in School

Many activities take place which promote pre-reading skills. Children become aware of print in their environment and match pictures and words. Language comprehension is developed by talking and reading to the children. As children gain phonic knowledge they start the process of decoding. Initially, as children learn to read, they are given a picture book with no words with the intention that they will share the book and take part in a conversation generated by the pictures. Gradually as the children's knowledge of letters and sounds develop they begin to phonetically decode words. Our reading books are organised into coloured book bands and boxes. Children are assessed regularly and move onto the next book band/ box when their fluency and understanding show that they are ready. We have 100% decodable reading books available for home reading. Children move through the Book Bands until they reach the required standard to become a Free Reader, choosing a book to read from our well-stocked school or class libraries. We have suitable age and phonic stage reading material for reluctant readers and struggling readers in KS2 classes. In addition to a personalised reading books, children are able to take a book home from the school library. In KS2 there is a greater emphasis on comprehension with most children decoding easily.

Developing Reading for Pleasure

We try to encourage a love of reading by reading a class novel and having a designated book area within each classroom with a range of books to encourage all children to read for pleasure. We have strong links with our local library, welcoming them into assemblies and each half term the library bus visits school and all children have the opportunity to choose a book.

Phonics is taught daily in Early Years Foundation Stage and in Year One following the framework 'Read, Write Inc'. In Year Two our children further develop their reading and grammar skills using the Read Write Inc spelling scheme.

Shared reading takes place within English lessons to provide enriching experiences through more challenging texts. Teachers also share stories with the class displaying an enthusiasm for reading and setting a positive example as a reader.

Guided reading is taught within Read Write Inc for KS1 and Basic Skills within KS2. Children are split into ability groups and focus on a range of reading strategies. The ultimate aim of guided is to help children use a range of reading strategies effectively.

Assessment of Reading

Reading is assessed regularly and monitored on the school tracking system. In KS1/KS2, optional SAT reading tests are also used to monitor progress.

Writing

Shared and modelled writing, takes place within English lessons. This allows the teacher to demonstrate good writing practice to the children while using their ideas. Teachers ensure that the writing demonstrated shows high expectations and covers the success criteria they would expect to see in the children's writing. Primary Literacy Project is used across the school to help children to gather ideas and structure their writing.

Children are expected to write frequently in a range of forms. This may be responses to a text, filling in text feature grids, short writing tasks such as writing as a character or writing a whole story or report as an extended piece of writing.

In the new English curriculum, grammar, punctuation and spelling now play a key role in the children's writing. These skills are referred to during English lessons and children are encouraged to integrate their grammar and spelling learning within their writing.

The national curriculum for English reflects the importance of spoken language, cognitively, socially and linguistically. Spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing. Throughout the school from Nursery upwards ensure the continual development of pupils' confidence and competence in spoken language and listening skills. Children will be taught to understand and use the conventions for discussion and debate.

All children are given the opportunity to engage in a range of dramatic conventions including improvisation, role-play and hot seating and school productions as well as respond thoughtfully to drama and theatre performances.

Our English curriculum is enhanced throughout the curriculum with a range of events and opportunities to promote literacy in all its forms including World Book Day, author visits and various out of school visits eg Segedunum.