

Aims of the Curriculum

Subject	Intent / Aim
English	<p>At St Mary's we feel that English has a vital place in education and society. Our children need to develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening so that they can express themselves creatively and communicate with others effectively. We ensure that pupils leaving the school are confident, independent and literate learners.</p> <p>We offer an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum that develops the literacy skills of each child to the highest level. Spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing in our school and speaking and listening is an integral part of the whole of the school day. Reading is a skill essential for life and it is vital that our children leave school able to read fluently, confidently and have a love of reading.</p> <p>We want to encourage children to become enthusiastic and thoughtful readers who understand and engage with what they are reading which is supported through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carefully selected texts to base reading and writing tasks around• Carefully chosen books to read as a whole class at the end of a school day to allow all abilities to access an uninterrupted read• Carefully planned and constructed <i>Think Aloud</i> worksheets to develop inference• A well-stocked and varied library and class book corner• The ACR programme and reward system• An emphasis on sustained reading in guided sessions• A focus on parental support in reading at home <p>We feel that the key purpose of writing is to communicate meaning and therefore all writing tasks have an identified and clear purpose. The writing process includes forming, articulating and communicating ideas. The children are given frequent opportunities in school to write in different contexts using quality texts as a model and for a variety of purposes and audiences.</p> <p>We aim to develop the children's ability to produce well-structured, detailed writing in which the meaning is made clear and which engages the interest of the reader. We do this through in depth study of a focus text that provides a balance between poetry, non-fiction and fiction. Children are also well equipped in the elements of grammar required as well as legible, joined handwriting by the end of KS2.</p>

Phonics

EYFS and Key Stage 1 Phonics and Reading Schemes

At St Mary's we follow 'The RML Scheme' to teach phonics. This is supplemented by 'Phonics Play Website'. For reading we use a range of reading schemes throughout Early Years and Key Stage 1 to promote a love of reading. Our reading scheme books are levelled. When reading, pupils are encouraged to use, practise and develop their phonic skills as well as reading for enjoyment. A reading record book also goes home with each child to help parents communicate with the class teacher. Pupils are encouraged to read at home every evening and discuss the story with their parents and carers. Reading books are changed regularly.