

Our Vision for English at St. Matthew's Primary School

English is at the heart of every child and adults life. We live in an environment where Literacy is all around us and we use the fundamentals of writing and reading in our daily lives. This is why at St. Matthew's we believe that English should be at the heart of all aspects of school life.

Intent

It is our intention that our pupils acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to become independent learners and communicators. We strive to ensure that all our pupils receive a well-rounded learning experience when reading, writing, speaking and listening. We recognise that well developed Literacy skills can open a world of academic success for children and we understand the importance of language in our lives. Staff at our school are committed to ensuring we do our very best to help the children in our care become successful readers, writers and linguists. By the time children leave St Matthew's, they will be equipped with the skills and mind set needed to reach their full potential in English. The children are provided with opportunities to explore and practise a range of genres from EYFS to Year 6. Teachers plan lessons that instil and encourage a love for reading, a passion for writing and a confidence to verbalise their creativity. The desire to embed and consolidate Literacy skills is reflected across our curriculum. Confidence in basic language skills enables children to communicate creatively and imaginatively, preparing them for their future journey through education and beyond.

Implementation

At St. Matthew's, children are given daily opportunities to explore and develop their reading, writing and oracy skills through a number of rich, engaging and creative activities in order to prepare them for the world they live in.

We understand that children need to be able to listen to and recall genres orally before writing their own, which is why we use Talk for Writing to help develop children's oracy skills. We strive to ensure children can communicate clearly in written form and become masters of language. We promote reading throughout our Curriculum and children are given opportunities to develop their reading skills every day. We use Reciprocal Reading to improve pupils' reading and comprehension skills.

We teach children at St. Matthew's to write using a cursive script from the beginning of their time here. We know that using a cursive script helps most children become more confident, fluent writers and also helps improve spelling. We believe that good presentation skills are important as we want children to value their own work and for others to do the same.

We understand the importance of writing and language in our lives and we are committed to ensuring we do our very best to help the children in our care become creative writers and successful readers.

Impact

We strive to ensure that our children's attainment is in line with or exceeds their potential based on their varied starting points. We measure this using a range of materials, whilst always considering the age-related expectations for each year group. Children will make good progress in Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. We intend the impact of our English curriculum will ensure our pupils are academically prepared for life beyond primary school and throughout their educational journey.

Covid19

English planning has been adapted to highlight critical content that needs to be taught in each year group due to gaps that have arisen due to lockdowns over the previous 2 years. An extra English lesson is taught each week in year groups 1 to 6. This lesson focusses on SPaG to help to try and close the gaps in children's learning. We understand the potential impact that the lockdowns will have had on children's reading, writing, and speaking abilities which is why there is a focus on these areas during English lessons and across the curriculum to target closing the gaps. We are also aware that children will have had fewer social interactions whilst at home and we will include speaking and listening activities across the curriculum. This will enable the children to develop their confidence as well as enabling them to communicate their emotions and anxieties as a result of Covid.