

## **ENGLISH**

In studying English pupils develop skills in spoken language, reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. Literacy skills are applied across the curriculum and wherever possible, strong links are made between subjects.

### **Aims**

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

We aim 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 arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

### **Reading Schemes**

In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, the children learn to read using mainly 'Oxford Reading Tree' books. There is an emphasis on phonics based books which include 'Songbirds' and Pearson 'Big Club', which links the text to the Phonics phases. They also read from a variety of texts which are book banded according to National Curriculum levels. These books may come from a scheme such as 'Oxford Reading Tree', 'Big Cats', 'Rigby Rockets', 'Project X' or may be a non-scheme picture book, short novel or non-fiction text. Children in all classes take home a reading book each day in addition to a book from our school library which is changed weekly. They also have at least one guided reading session per week. Guided reading books are occasionally sent home to complement the reading lessons in school. Once a child moves beyond reading from Book Bands, they will select a home-reading book from our extensive collection of novels and non-fiction books in our class libraries .

### **Phonics**

In Reception and Key Stage 1 each child takes part in a daily phonics lesson of at least 15 minutes. The children are grouped into phases. By the end of Reception each child is expected to have achieved Phase 3; by the end of Year 1 each child is expected to have achieved Phase 5; by the end of Year 2 each child is expected to have achieved Phase 6. Phonics sessions are interactive and fun! All teachers follow the phonics scheme, 'Letters and Sounds'.