



English

Intent

- At Wheatcroft, we inspire children to develop a love of reading and teach them the necessary skills to read and share books that ignite their imagination and widen their knowledge of the world.
- We provide opportunities to read books from our rich and varied literary heritage and we establish the habit of reading widely and often.
- We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts.
- We nurture so that our children are confident in the art of speaking and listening, including performance, and use discussion to communicate and further their learning.
- We develop secure Literacy skills to enable children to become lifelong learners and to be able to communicate effectively in society.
- Crucially, our English curriculum provides a clear pathway of progression of skills as the children move through the school.

Implementation

Our aims are embedded across our English lessons and the wider curriculum. We provide a well-organised English curriculum that provides many purposeful opportunities for reading, writing, and discussion. Cross-curricular links are embedded in planning to ensure the very best opportunities for discussion, the reading of high-quality texts, and writing activities.

At Wheatcroft we teach:

- Daily phonic lessons using Supersonic Phonic Friends in Early Years and Year 1
- In Key Stage 2 we use Spelling Shed as our framework for teaching spelling; this consists of a main lesson weekly with additional opportunities for rehearsal throughout the week; children can also access the software at home to reinforce their learning.
- English lessons are linked to a high-quality core text (printed or visual e.g. clip or short video) which are adapted to meet the needs of the children.
- Letter formation phrases based on our phonics scheme to develop early handwriting and a handwriting scheme (Nelson) to support the move to joining in Year 2.
- Reading sessions to teach vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and sequencing/ summarising are taught regularly; a mixture of individual, group and whole class reading is taught using our core texts and extracts from a wide range of high quality texts.
- In addition to English lessons, from Early Years through to Year 6, our children use our reading scheme to develop a range of reading skills, as well as a love of reading. Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 learn to read using fully decodable books linked to our phonics scheme while more confident readers can choose from well-stocked class book shelves or from our library. Our Upper Key Stage 2 Reading Champions help to support the love of reading across the school and regularly visit younger classes to share story times.

We use a wide variety of quality texts and resources in our teaching, to motivate and inspire our children. We provide a wealth of opportunities: World Book Day Celebrations each year, entry into the Queen Mother's Handwriting Competition, Year 6 enter the local Rotary Club Essay competition and each child performs in a phase production each term. Additionally, a range of stories, poetry and song are shared by staff through both phase and whole school assemblies. We are passionate about children being immersed in quality literature and experiencing positive role models from a wide variety of sources for example virtual author workshops.

Impact

Our children share a love of reading: they are enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their developing literacy knowledge and skills through displays around the school and performing to a wider audience in assemblies and productions. They are confident to take risks in their reading and writing and are keen to discuss and share their ideas. Most children leave Wheatcroft with secure Literacy skills to enable them to continue their learning and to be able to communicate effectively as they move on to Secondary school.