



'Bringing Learning to Life'

English Curriculum Overview

Rationale

English unites the important skills of reading and writing. It also involves speaking and listening, discussion and reflection. It is a life skill, which enables us to make sense of our world. We aim for all children to become confident, critical readers and writers with the ability to express themselves through a variety of different English activities.

Reading skills are taught through phonics, guided and whole class reading, comprehension and shared reading across the curriculum. One of our main priorities is to encourage our children to read for pleasure. We have devised a whole school Literature Spine to ensure our children don't miss out on what we consider to be good quality stories and literature and to also guide children and staff to age appropriate texts.

Phonics is taught on a daily basis from Reception to Year Two and into Key Stage Two for children who specifically have this need. We have developed our own Phonics Curriculum at The Oaks, which combines 'Letters and Sounds' and the National Curriculum. Once children have completed the phonics programme, they move onto spelling, which is taken from the National Curriculum.

At The Oaks we aim to give children a purpose and audience for writing and, where possible, we teach writing through project using a range of genres.

We acknowledge the importance of Speaking and Listening in supporting the writing process and it is something we pride ourselves on at The Oaks. From Reception, co-operative learning structures and Philosophy for Children are taught and developed. We also support other schools in delivering this aspect of learning.

We value the importance of parents and families in their child's development and although we have a 'no homework' policy, we expect children and parents to engage in daily reading and research log activities to support their English skills.

We support English learning using high quality resources not least of which includes a well-trained enthusiastic committed staff.