



BARNWOOD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

English



Intent

At Barnwood C of E Primary School, we believe that a quality English curriculum should develop the children's love of reading, writing and discussion. We will inspire an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and a habit of reading widely and often. Through carefully selected reading material pupils will have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. We recognise the importance of reading as a model for writing and nurturing a culture where children take pride in their authorial expression. Children will write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of purposes. We will inspire children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening so they are able to use discussion as an effective tool for communication as well as to further learning.

We believe that Literacy is the fundamental foundation of a high-quality education. To be successful in life, children need to develop a secure knowledge-base in English, which follows a clear pathway of progression. We aim to provide an English curriculum that fosters a positive attitude to lifelong learning and is driven by our core vision of *'loving our neighbour and working together to be the best we can be, for the good of all.'*

Implementation

At Barnwood, we want all of our pupils to develop a love of literature and language and by this end, become confident and capable readers, writers and speakers. We will develop literacy skills that are transferable so they become the golden key to accessing other curriculum subjects. Our English lessons develop pupils' spoken language, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary. English is often taught in a cross-curricular way, linking up with other areas of the curriculum.

We teach our pupils to speak clearly, to convey their ideas fluently and confidently and to ask questions; the use of annotated text marking and *No Pen Days* across the school supports this. We know the value of high quality vocabulary and this is developed and practised across our curriculum, with constant and consistent reference to Tiers of Vocabulary. We use first-hand experiences to inspire awe and wonder and create learning opportunities that are three-dimensional; expecting pupils to be active participants not just passive observers. We encourage children to express their ideas, discuss their opinions, to listen carefully to the views of others so that we can collaboratively develop a rich and varied vocabulary.

Our pupils are encouraged to read for pleasure and to read widely through our reading scheme and school library. We use Read, Write Inc for our phonics programme. Phonic awareness helps with the development of early reading by teaching children to segment and blend sounds. The children are heard reading regularly, both individually and in groups. Our whole class teacher-led reading sessions cover a wide variety of both fiction and non-fiction books and help to advance the children's comprehension skills through the use of VIPERS. Parents are given reading guidance and clear expectations about reading at home and we have a home/school reading initiative that rewards effort and celebrates success.

We develop writing skills so that our children have the stamina and ability to write at the age expected standard. To support children in moving towards independent writing we provide a wide range of activities including the use of film and imagery, music, ICT, modelled, shared and guided writing, peer assessment and discussion. We provide varied and exciting opportunities for writing for purpose and we encourage pupils to see themselves as authors and poets. We promote the importance of written work by providing a writing purpose and opportunities for children's writing to be read aloud and listened to by an audience. Handwriting sessions are regularly incorporated into the English lessons and we use the letter-join cursive style.

We have developed a range of extra activities which are used to promote English, within the school, including involvement in the Cheltenham Literature Festival, World Book Day, Author visits and the Reading initiative that encourages children to become Reading Ambassadors.

Impact

As a result we have a community of enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their developing literacy knowledge and skills. They are confident to take risks in their reading and writing, and love to discuss and share their ideas.

We endeavour to continually raise standards and have attainment levels, at the end of EYFS, KS1 and KS2, that are in line with or above the national average.