

## **ENGLISH AT SOUTHWOLD SCHOOL**

English at Southwold Primary and Nursery School is taught both as a discrete subject and through cross curricular topics based on a 'big question' approach. We plan our topics around six open ended topic questions linking to a range of curriculum areas. English is at the core of curriculum planning so that subject material from other curriculum areas is used as content for speaking, listening, reading and writing. Therefore, all curriculum areas will involve some aspects of English.

The English Curriculum is delivered using the National Curriculum 2014 and the Early Learning Goals are followed to ensure continuity and progression from the Foundation Stage through to the National Curriculum.

### **SPOKEN LANGUAGE**

The Four Strands of Speaking and Listening: Speaking; Listening; Group Discussion and Interaction, and Drama permeate the whole curriculum. Interactive teaching strategies are used to engage all pupils in order to raise reading and writing standards. Children are encouraged to develop effective communication skills in readiness for later life.

### **READING**

At Southwold we aim to develop children's reading and writing in all subjects to support their acquisition of knowledge and skills. Children will be taught to read fluently, understand extended texts (both fiction and non-fiction) and will be encouraged to read for pleasure.

The opportunities, organisation and provision for the teaching and learning of reading are as follows:

- Guided reading: Teaching reading comprehension skills through the use of the reading VIPERS taken from the content domains: Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising.
- Independent reading through a colour banded reading scheme: A book banded reading scheme operates across the school which comprises of a range of different schemes. Children work their way through the colour band scheme and then become free readers.
- Read Write Inc Phonics: Phonics is taught daily in EYFS and KS1.
- Class books: Stories are read to the children on a daily basis throughout the school. Teachers also take time to read class novels and model reading for pleasure. It is important that children enjoy reading and also have the opportunity to experience books from classic and modern authors.
- Reading at home: Children are encouraged to read at home every day this is given high priority. Each child has a reading record book which logs books they have read and comments about their reading. Parents and teaching staff record in this book.

## WRITING

At Southwold we aim to ensure whole school consistency through the use of the three phase approach to teaching writing.

English is based around a high quality text. Each term, one high quality text is covered which links closely to our big question theme. From this, a narrative and a non-fiction piece are produced.

Children will develop the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. They will be taught the correct use of grammar through our personalised grammar progression documents tailored to each year group. They will build on what they have been taught to expand the range of their writing and the variety of the grammar they use. The writing they do will include narratives, explanations, vocabulary acquisition, descriptions, comparisons, summaries and evaluations: such writing supports them in rehearsing, understanding and consolidating what they have heard or read.

The opportunities, organisation and provision for the teaching and learning of writing are as follows:

- Read Write Inc Phonics: Daily Phonics sessions in EYFS and KS 1.
- Read Write Inc Spelling: Daily Spelling sessions from Year 2-6. Children in Years 1 to 6 are set spelling homework each week to consolidate spelling rules taught in school. The children are also taught and tested on the Common Exception Words for each year group.
- English lessons: Teaching and learning focuses on planning, drafting, editing and evaluating written pieces. Within teaching sequences shared writing is a key element which allows for teacher modelling. The teaching of vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and spelling is taught within daily English lessons or as a discrete subject. This is also supported by the use of guided writing, the use of model texts to teach explicit skills, independent writing, extended writing and time for children to edit and redraft. Effective marking and feedback also helps children with editing and improving their work. There are also cross-curricular writing opportunities through Science and topic work.
- Handwriting: We use the Nelson Handwriting scheme to teach handwriting. Children have discrete handwriting lessons to teach, model and apply the correct letter formation and joining techniques. In Key Stage 2, children are given a pen licence when they are able to join neatly and fluently.