

English Intent

Phonics

At St Peter and St Paul school, we aspire for our children to become confident and enthusiastic readers and writers and see the teaching of phonics as vital in this. We aim for our children to develop the phonic knowledge and skills that will equip them in their reading and writing across the curriculum.

Phonics at our school follows the DfE approved phonics scheme 'Phonics Bug'. We believe that a systematic synthetic programme of teaching phonics provides the foundations of learning that children need to make the development into fluent reading and writing. We endeavour to teach phonics in a way that is lively and interactive, so that children have fun playing with sounds and exploring new words and vocabulary.

We recognise that the foundations of acquiring letter sounds, segmenting and blending skills are vital for our children to be able to read and write for pleasure through their early school life and to develop into fluent readers and writers later on.

Handwriting

In our school, we value children taking pride in their work and encourage neat and legible presentation in all written work that they do. We want our children to be able to write with speed and fluency in order to communicate their knowledge and ideas through their writing.

We recognise that handwriting and mark making starts before children even begin school and value the attempts that children make from the earliest stages of developing motor skills and forming letters to developing a confident, legible and personal style. Handwriting in our school is seen as a vital skill for children to learn and an important communication tool.

Reading

Reading is at the heart of each classroom in our school. Teachers enjoy taking the time to share high quality texts with depth and interest in story, character, illustration, vocabulary, subject and subject matter with their class and model reading for pleasure. This promotes a reading culture whereby children enjoy reading themselves and in turn develop fluency, stamina and confidence when reading aloud. We also actively encourage talk about books: sharing our thoughts, opinions, questions and predictions. This further develops our children's comprehension skills and also opens their minds to the wider world and life beyond our local community. Each classroom has a broad and current variety of books that provide texts for every reader from graphic novels, non-gender stereotyped, poetry, picture books and classic novels. We avidly foster engagement through drama and role-play to help our readers to understand and access texts and become characters. Our readers are beginning to work with authors to understand the process of creating a book and use literature beyond the literacy lessons with cross-curricular and quality literature at the start point. By the time our children leave us at the end of KS2, they will have been exposed to a

wide variety of texts and authors. They will view reading not only as an essential life skill, but also something that provides great enjoyment and escapism.

Writing

Writing is a crucial part of school life at St Peter and St Paul primary. We want our children to develop a love of writing and to view it as an opportunity to express themselves and use their imagination.

Our aim is to provide our children with a rich vocabulary, a secure understanding of grammar, punctuation and spelling which they will confidently apply to their writing across the curriculum. We want our children to enjoy the writing process and to feel confident to take risks and be creative. They will work towards independently identifying areas for improvement in order to ensure their writing is clear, accurate and coherent through proof-reading and editing across a range of genres. We set high expectations for our children: we want them to take pride in their work and want to share their writing achievements.

By the time our children leave us in Year 6, they will be confident writers and effective communicators. They will have the skills needed to participate fully as a member of society.