

English

Reading

We strive for all our children to become competent readers and develop a love of reading through our creative curriculum which is based on high quality and engaging texts suited to children's age and experiences. We offer children a wide range of books including texts from the Oxford Reading Scheme, Big Cats and Badger Learning. We start each day with a reading routine that gives children time to read aloud to an adult, change their books independently and read quietly to themselves. Regular visits to the library are provided for the children during the school week. We open the library after school one evening a week for children to come with parents and borrow books. Guided reading sessions take place weekly and give children the opportunity to put into place skills and understanding in a more structured session. Small groups of children, working at a similar reading stage, work with an adult, to read an unfamiliar text that has been chosen to reinforce, challenge and further develop their independent reading strategies.

Phonics

Phonics is taught on a daily basis and we follow the Letters and Sounds programme. We encourage the children to read new or unfamiliar words by linking sounds and the letters that represent them. We teach high frequency words as part of reading so that early readers are able to access texts. Key words cannot be read using phonics alone so we teach them to read these words by sight.

Writing

Our journey planning for writing provides opportunities for children to write for a range of purposes and audiences. We often use high quality and engaging texts as a hook for a unit of work. Teaching writing is broken down into four steps of progression, beginning with exposure to the text time, oral language and drama. During focused teaching time, the children are taught necessary skills through word and sentence level work. At this stage of the learning journey a clear success criteria is shared with the children. The children then apply the skills they have learned in context through independent writing activities. At the end of a piece of writing we encourage the children to improve and edit their work.