

English at Meadows



In English there are three main focus areas:

- **Speaking and Listening**
- **Reading**
- **Writing**



English Lessons

We make full use of the National Curriculum Programmes of Study to structure the teaching of English. This is supplemented by cross-curricular topic work. Typical aspects of lessons may include the following:

- Whole class shared reading and writing activities using a variety of high quality texts
- Whole class work concentrating on phonics, spelling, punctuation and handwriting
- Group work, including guided reading and writing sessions with the teacher, using books appropriate to the children's abilities
- Time for independent work, including extended writing, the length of which will be determined by the age and ability of the children

Speaking & Listening

During Key Stage 1 (Years R-2), pupils learn to speak confidently and listen to what others have to say. They use language to explore their own experiences and imaginary worlds. During Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4), pupils learn to adapt and develop the way they speak and have opportunities to develop their performance skills with playscripts and poems.



Reading

In the Early Years, as the children are introduced to phonics, they begin to blend sounds in order to read simple words. We have a variety of reading schemes, organised to match closely with the children's developing knowledge of phonics. We use 'Letters and Sounds' and the National Curriculum to structure our phonics teaching at Meadows. Our home reading books are colour banded across the school, allowing children to progress at their own pace.



In lessons, children are given opportunities to read a range of texts and respond to different layers of meaning in them. They are able to broaden their vocabulary as well as to develop their knowledge of writing techniques and grammar. This helps children to understand the way language is used in different types of text and encourages them to develop their own writing skills. Also by sharing and listening to a wide range of stories, poetry and non-fiction texts we aim to develop a love of reading. Every day we enjoy sharing stories, poems and non-fiction texts in our 'Drop Everything and Read'



By the end of Key Stage 1, the children are expected to build their fluency by reading words automatically without overt sounding out. In Years 3 and 4, the teaching of reading focuses more on comprehension and responding to texts.



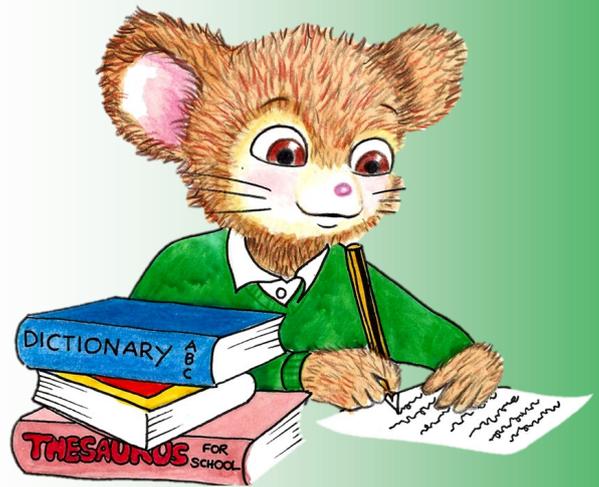
Writing

Writing is closely related to reading; the two activities reinforce each other. By sharing quality texts together, the children are able to identify techniques, vocabulary and language patterns used by authors and poets which can be applied to their own writing. This is known as 'Reading into Writing'. The children also regularly have opportunities to share ideas with talk partners and as a class to form part of the planning process.

It is important that pupils learn to write independently from an early stage. The teaching of phonics, spelling and handwriting complements this process and is used to support writing and build up accuracy and speed. As they develop, pupils are shown how to plan, draft, revise and proofread their work. Children are taught to punctuate their writing correctly, using a range of different punctuation marks.

Spelling

Great emphasis is placed on spelling within English lessons. The children are given regular opportunities to apply their knowledge in dictation and independent writing. In Key Stage 2, the children are taught how to use a dictionary in order to develop their independent proofreading skills. They are also required to learn selected words based on work covered in class.



Handwriting

It is important that our children are able to write clearly and neatly when presenting their ideas. Correct letter formation is taught from the beginning followed by the introduction of cursive script in Year 1. Handwriting is taught regularly to enable our children to develop a fluent and legible style.

How to Write Letters

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

↗
Cursive handwriting script, taught from Year 1 onwards.