



English Curriculum



At St Stephen's CE Primary School our aim is to teach pupils to speak, read and write fluently so they can communicate their thoughts, ideas and emotions to others with confidence. We develop our pupils' listening skills and reading skills, enabling them to communicate effectively with others. We are developing our teaching of vocabulary to provide children with a broad, rich vocabulary.

Reading @ St Stephen's

Reading is our key focus at St Stephen's. Without reading children struggle to access so many areas of the curriculum. We want to develop children's love of learning and give them the best possible chance in life. This year we have introduced class reads and have encouraged children to buy their own copies, a newsletter is sent out each half term. The children have loved sharing their new book as a class and it has really helped to develop that love of books. We teach reading through daily guided reading activities. The children read with a teacher and a teaching assistant weekly. They are taught how to deduce information, infer, make predictions and understand vocabulary etc. They also have several sessions where they can practice their reading and answering written comprehension questions. Our new library was revamped this year and all classes have a weekly library slot so they can share books and change their library books regularly. We have a home-school reading system, which requests that children read a book at the appropriate level for them at home. Reading diaries are used so that school and home can communicate and support children's reading. In Nursey, Reception and Key Stage 1 the children use a variety of schemes, which are banded. In Key Stage 2 the children progress through the bands to eventually reach free reading. We also have lots of initiatives to boost the profile of reading in school, including: reading volunteers, reading raffles, 'The reading café' etc. All of these encourage children to read in and out of school to help them across all areas of the curriculum.

Phonics @ St Stephen's

Phonics plays a vital role in the teaching of reading and is taught daily in EYFS and KS1 following the Letters and Sounds programme. Our teaching staff plan and teach interactive activities that engage our pupils and provide opportunities to apply their phonics skills in reading and writing tasks. Progression in Phonics is assessed termly and monitored to ensure progression and provide appropriate support.

Handwriting @ St Stephen's

Handwriting is taught weekly from Reception to Year 6, beginning with mark making and patterns in Early Years all the way up to legible, joined handwriting in Year 6. please see our handwriting scheme which is attached

Spelling @ St Stephen's

Spelling is taught from Year 1 – Year 6 every week. Spelling is taught indirectly daily in all lessons. Direct teaching of spelling is taught at least four times a week this is through 15-20-minute lessons which also incorporate other areas of GPS. Children are taught to spell using a range of activities and games, as well as the practise of spellings daily. Spellings are sent home each week as part of homework and the children are tested each week.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling @ St Stephen's

Grammar, punctuation and spelling is taught from Year 1 – Year 6 every week. In KS1 GPS is taught alongside phonics and English in class. In year 1 children are taught to use basic punctuation in their writing. In year 2 children begin to learn the different word classes and types of sentences and punctuation-this feeds in well to the end of year expectation. Throughout KS2 children develop their understanding of grammatical terms to prepare them for the end of KS2 SATs assessment at the end of Y6.

Writing @ St Stephen's

Writing is taught through 'book hooks' at St Stephen's. Each class has a new book which hooks them into a new unit. This is then used alongside other media, including: film clips, music videos, songs, extracts from other texts to really immerse the children into the theme.

Children are introduced to the text or clip and then spend the next few weeks learning different grammatical features and structures, planning, drafting and editing until they have a fabulous final piece of writing. The children will learn about a range of different genres and how to write each, incorporating the aspects that are expected within their year group.

Children at St Stephen's are also given the opportunity to write for a range of purposes. They may write letters of thanks to visitors who have come to school; they may write persuasive letters to persuade staff to let them attend trips/events; they may write stories which are then shared with children in other year groups. We are beginning to enter more writing competitions in the local community and nationally to give the children another sense of purpose.

Writing across the curriculum is also very important at St Stephen's. Children are not only encouraged to write in their English lessons but also in topic, science, RE etc. Children may write a report or a write up of an investigation in science. Children may write a set of instructions to help us in our DT lessons. Children may even write a recount of an important event that happened in history.

So remember, when looking at writing, don't just focus on our English books. Talk to us about our writing in other areas of the curriculum too.