

Why do we learn English?

The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing underpin our daily lives and are paramount to future opportunities. Through the English curriculum, we help children to develop these areas and give them the knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively, thus equipping them with the skills to become confident and eloquent citizens, organising and expressing their own thoughts.

English at St. Luke's

Our vision for English

At St. Luke's, we believe that every child should have the opportunity to develop the skills, understanding and enthusiasm needed to be independent readers, writers and orators. We want the children to acquire this knowledge not only for educational attainment, but also so that they cultivate a genuine love of language that can be used to express their individual creativity, communicate with others effectively and generate empathy for the world around them.

What learning opportunities are there?

National Poetry Day, World Book Day, Key Stage Productions, Class Assemblies, Author Visits, Library Visits, Shakespeare Workshops and Performances at the Orange Tree Theatre, Hobgoblin Christmas Performance, Reading & Writing Competitions (eg) BBC's 500 Words and Extreme Reading

"I like sitting with my friends and listening to new stories"
(Nursery pupil)

"I like learning difficult words to use in my writing."
(Year 5 pupil)

Reading

Reading provides the foundation to be able to access the full breadth of the curriculum, and is a key life skill. At St Luke's, we place great emphasis on reading for pleasure, be it through inviting book corners or ensuring that reading is at the heart of our daily practice.

From the outset, our children are immersed into the world of language through high quality texts and a language rich environment, broadening their exposure to high-level vocabulary. From Nursery to Year 2, they learn to become confident readers through daily phonics instruction based on 'Letters and Sounds'. In Years 1 - 6, children participate in whole-class reading workshops, where they are taught a range of strategies to develop key comprehension skills. Such provision allows all children to have the tools to decode and be able to read for meaning, whilst encouraging a lifelong relationship with the written word.

"It helps my writing when I say it, count it, write it and check it"
(Year 2 pupil)

Speaking and Listening

As spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing, we ensure that we foster exploratory talk and good listening skills in all areas of the curriculum. Drama and role-play is regularly used in lessons to encourage creative writing, and is a prominent feature within our class assemblies and productions.

Writing

Learning to write is one of the most important things that a child at primary school will learn. Children use their writing in almost all other subjects of the curriculum, and good writing gives children a voice to share ideas with the world. We nurture pupils' interests in writing through a range of creative teaching approaches based upon high quality children's literature or a media stimulus. The Power of Reading initiative is an intrinsic part of our curriculum provision, which offers a reason and context, ensuring that purpose and audience are always at the center of written outcomes. To promote and develop children's independence and ownership over what they write, our 'Every time we write' approach supports the proofreading process, making sure that key writing skills are transferrable.