

English at Foxmoor Primary School

At Foxmoor Primary School, we aim to create a love of learning and through this, we believe that success in reading and writing is the key to unlocking the door. We aim to prepare our pupils for their journey in life. Consequently, literacy features highly throughout our entire primary curriculum; children learn skills during their English lessons and are encouraged to practice these in their daily learning. This enhances their broad, well-balanced knowledge rich curriculum as they have the skills needed to access all areas of learning.

English is a multi-faceted subject and here at Foxmoor we pride ourselves on teaching reading, writing, spelling, punctuation, grammar, handwriting and speaking and listening to a high standard. The National Curriculum is the epi-centre of our planning, as is teacher's passion to create lessons that engage all pupils. Teachers regularly alter their planning to suit the needs of the children, which provides pupils with a tailored curriculum that fulfils the requirements of the national curriculum whilst allowing creativity and independence.

Our pupils begin their reading journey through a fast paced, dynamic programme of systematic phonics teaching, which is underpinned by the Read. Write Inc. programme. After this, pupils experience a high quality structure of teaching by a 'take-one-book' approach, whereby classes study an author of their choice and base all of their quality reading and writing around this text wherever possible. We also make links with other curriculum areas at any opportunity, to provide pupils with enjoyable learning experiences. Through our Book Club lessons our pupils become skilled at comprehension, which allows them to infer and deduce accurately, becoming a reading detective and high level interrogator of texts. Book Club is further enhanced with Reader's Theatre where a text is read repeatedly across the week and performed as a culmination and celebration of the children's reading fluency.

We are passionate about reading and aim to encourage a love and enjoyment of books for pleasure and purpose. We have a vast, well-stocked library where pupils visit regularly to choose books to read at home and school. Each classroom has a class-reading corner, which provides a moment of tranquillity in each school day and allows pupils to read regularly a range of texts as well as research cross-curricular topics. We provide opportunities for pupils to read to an adult, read with a partner, read with a 'buddy' from a different year group, as well as read independently for sustained periods. We give pupils the opportunity to utilise the school library at playtimes and lunchtimes to its maximum potential which is supported by a team of Reading Ambassadors. We are very proud of our extensive, well-stocked library.

At Foxmoor, we are aspirational, and aim for all of our pupils to become independent writers by the time they leave our school. We do this by providing varied writing tasks to allow pupils to practice the skills they need to achieve the expected standards in writing so that they can access the KS3 curriculum and life-long learning with ease. In order to do this, pupils study a range of genres and text types by the time they reach Y6 and will be able to write confidently and accurately with precision of punctuation to avoid ambiguity. Our pupils are encouraged to be writers by experimenting and trying new things – we immerse our pupils in a range of challenging vocabulary and encourage them to experiment as writers. We build editing into the writing process, as all pupils are encouraged to analyse and improve their own writing, as well as reviewing work with a critical friend.

We have high standards of handwriting and presentation and expect pupils to write in a joined fluent style; we believe our Foxmoor joined writing promotes speed and presentational skills

allowing our pupils to produce work that they are proud of throughout their school day. All staff share in this ethos and endeavour to make their handwriting as fluent and joined too! Children learn these skills as early as reception and progress to using pen by the end of infants. We teach spelling clusters linked to handwriting, as we believe pupils who handwrite fluently have fewer difficulties with spellings. This kinaesthetic approach allows our pupils to become confident spellers who are prepared to experiment with the more challenging aspects of our complex English language.

Speaking and Listening is an essential part of learning at Foxmoor. We provide opportunities for pupils to orally rehearse their writing and encourage pupils to talk with a talk partner to develop language and creativity. We provide opportunities for class speaking and debate and pupils regularly deliver their ideas during assemblies and class presentations.

Here at Foxmoor, we link all the elements of good literacy into our lessons and adapt our teaching and planning to ensure that every pupil achieves their full potential. We are mindful of those pupils who need extra support and we will always go that extra mile to provide the intervention they deserve in order to keep up with their peers. Rather than playing catch up continually, we often give pupils extra support before lessons so they can reach their full potential. We provide intervention support where necessary and are very fortunate enough to have a highly skilled set of teaching assistants who support the teachers in enhancing pupils learning. Pupils receive additional support as and when necessary and we are mindful of those higher achievers who need extra challenging texts and tasks. We value the extra support provided by parents, who also have a vital role to play in hearing their child read regularly at home.