

## English

When the children first start school, they are introduced to skills that will prepare them for reading, writing, speaking and listening. Phonics is taught using the Letters and Sounds guidance and Jolly Phonics approaches. In addition to a range of reading books, the Oxford Reading Tree reading scheme is used extensively to teach the children to read in the first two years at school. As their skills develop, they move away from reading schemes and are encouraged to read 'real' books to develop their love of reading whilst developing their individual reading skills. All children are expected to take their books home each night to share with their parents. All children have a reading record which can be filled in by family members at home, staff in school and increasingly by the pupils themselves as they get older. We also place a big emphasis on teachers reading aloud to the children everyday from a class story.

Children's writing covers different text genres with the children writing for different purposes and audiences to develop creativity and imagination. Great emphasis is placed on the correct use of spelling, grammar and punctuation. We

have our own SAS (Spelling All Stars) spelling bank which starts with the Spelling Bee level in Reception and then moves onto increasingly challenging word banks from Year 1 upwards using key words from 'Letters and Sounds', words from the first 300 high frequency words, progressing to the statutory words lists in the National Curriculum. All children will have a record of their SAS work in the back of their KIRF maths books. SAS words banks and ideas to help your child practise their spellings are included in the literacy section of this website. Presentation is very important and children are encouraged to develop a legible and neat cursive style of handwriting as they mature. Opportunities are provided for speaking, listening and drama in a variety of situations across the curriculum. Performances play an integral part of our literacy curriculum with plays being performed throughout the school by all classes, culminating in a large end of Year 6 production each year at the highly acclaimed Richard Whitley Theatre.

We have a more detailed breakdown of literacy and how it is structured and taught at our school on the literacy section of our website.