

English at Dimple Well

Intent

At Dimple Well Infant School and Nursery we believe that pupils in our school should become confident readers, speakers, listeners and writers through a broad and balanced curriculum appropriate to their needs. We want them to acquire a wide range of vocabulary and an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language. We aim that pupils will be able to communicate to a variety of audiences in a confident and articulate manner.

We believe that competence in reading is the key to lifelong learning. We encourage children to regard themselves as readers for life, not only to read for information but also for pleasure and enjoyment. We recognise the importance of using systematic synthetic phonics to give early readers the key building blocks they need to understand and read words.

In our school we want to enable our pupils to write with confidence, coherence and accuracy for a variety of purposes and audiences. We aim for children to enjoy and recognise the value of writing. We want our children to be able to write with grammatical accuracy and be able to apply spelling patterns correctly using a neat handwriting style.

Implementation

The teaching of English is based on the National Curriculum and the Early Years Foundation Stage. Curriculum planning is carried out in three phases long, medium and short term.

Spoken Language

We recognise the importance of spoken language in pupils' development across the whole curriculum. Pupils are provided with opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills across the curriculum. They are encouraged to speak clearly and convey their ideas using Standard English. Pupils are encouraged to participate in class and group discussions, class assemblies, circle times and role play opportunities. Across every area of the curriculum pupils' vocabulary is developed and widened.

Phonics

At Dimple Well Infant School and Nursery phonics is a focussed teaching strategy based on the sequenced, progressive and systematic principles from Letters and Sounds. Phonics is taught when children enter the nursery. Each class has a daily phonics lesson which is taught through whole class, small and targeted groups. Pupils in Foundation Stage and Year 1 work on phases 1 to 5. In Year 2 it is expected that pupils move onto phase 6 and are taught spelling rules in line with the National Curriculum programme of study.

Reading

At Dimple Well Infant School and Nursery reading is taught through, focussed phonic sessions, group and whole class reading sessions, individual reading and guided reading. Teachers teach a full range of reading strategies including phonic and grammatical knowledge, word recognition, graphic and contextual knowledge. Children are also given opportunities to deepen their understanding of stories that they know by developing comprehension skills such as summarising, inference and prediction. Teachers regularly assess children's reading skills. A love of books and reading is modelled and encouraged throughout school. There are a range of books on displays and in provision areas that enable us to foster an interest in books and reading. We also take part in the Trust Book Awards and World Book Days. Children are encouraged to select a library book

each week as well as take home a home reading book. Home reading books are carefully selected to match pupils' abilities, allowing pupils to practise new learning and become confident, fluent readers. Our home reading scheme consists of a range of texts from Oxford Reading Tree, the texts include traditional stories, phonic based books and non-fiction books.

Writing

Through writing for a range of purposes we endeavour to foster an enjoyment of writing. We encourage children to become creative, imaginative and confident writers. In Foundation Stage mark making opportunities are available and encouraged in all areas, including role play. Pupils are encouraged to give meanings to the marks that they make and then to apply their phonic knowledge to write sentences and phrases for a range of purposes. In Years 1 and 2 pupils write on a daily basis through a range of contexts and cross curricular themes. Pupils are taught to:

- Spell common exception words accurately and apply this to their writing.
- Apply phonic knowledge and spelling rules to their writing.
- Develop their understanding of different punctuation.
- Choose words for effect according to purpose and audience.
- Develop their handwriting and presentation skills so that they can produce pieces of writing that they are proud of and others can read.

Children's achievements in writing are placed on an, 'All Star Writers' and 'Superstar Spellers' display, which is rotated on a regular basis.

Impact

Assessment of children's learning in English is an ongoing monitoring of pupils understanding, knowledge and skills. This information is used to inform, differentiate and support planning. Summative assessment is also used as ways to track progress and inform next steps of learning. Data shows that pupils at Dimple Well Infant and Nursery school consistently achieve above national expectations.

Assessment data shows that:

- By the end of Foundation Stage the percentage of pupils achieving ELG for Communication and Language, Reading and Writing is above National.
- In Year One the percentage of pupils passing the Phonics Screening Check is consistently above National.
- In Year Two the percentage of pupils working at or above age related expectations in reading are considerably greater than National.
- In Year Two the percentage of pupils working at or above age related expectations in writing is greater than National.