



At Epsom Primary & Nursery School, we are passionate about ensuring every child leaves our provision as an effective, confident and creative reader and writer. We view the acquisition of language skills with utmost importance and ensure that all aspects of the English curriculum are given a high priority. We strive to ensure children are provided with exciting, purposeful and inspiring lessons and teaching to give them the best possible chance of achieving their potential.

Reading Aims

Our aims for reading are to:

- Enable our children to become confident, fluent readers who read accurately and with understanding.
- Instil children with a love of reading that lasts for their lifetime; share with them an enthusiasm for children's literature and help children to recognise the value of reading as a life skill.
- Develop our children's understanding of a variety of text types including non-fiction, fiction, poetry and play scripts.
- Immerse children in a variety of texts, using drama and role-play where appropriate, and build their vocabulary through both implicit and explicit teaching.
- Focus on Authors as the best examples to showcase how to think and convey as both writer and reader.

Writing Aims

Our aims for writing are to:

- Develop an interest in, and appreciation of, the English language.
- Be part of rich learning experiences within the subject (and beyond).
- Have the ability to communicate effectively in speaking and listening, writing and to listen and respond with understanding.
- Understand the connections between the spoken and the written word.
- Have a broad range of vocabulary.
- Read, write and speak with confidence, fluency and understanding.
- Use a full and appropriate range of strategies: phonic, graphic, grammatical, contextual to deal with writing challenges independently.
- Discuss writing comprehensively, expressing opinions, explaining techniques and justifying preferences, about a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts, using suitable technical vocabulary.
- Enjoy writing and become confident writers with automaticity.

“Reading and writing cannot be separated. Reading is breathing in; writing is breathing out”
- www.literacyworldwide.org

Teaching of English

English is a core subject within the National Curriculum, and as such, English lessons take place for an hour each day. We follow a three-phase approach to teaching English: text immersion (Phase 1), planning (Phase 2), and writing (Phase 3).

We use the Power of Reading approach throughout the whole school within our English lessons. Our teaching in English is mainly centred on these challenging and inspiring core texts. This way of teaching ensures that children hear whole books read aloud and become immersed in them through drama, rich-life experiences, discussion and writing. These texts are specifically chosen to ensure each year group builds upon prior learning and are exposed to challenging vocabulary and themes, linking to the children's topics where possible. The following books are used in each year group and most writing is based around these books so that children have a clear purpose and context for writing:

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1	Amazing Grace Billy and the Beast Leaf		Traction Man On the Savannah Augustus and his smile		The Storm Whale	Man on the Moon Beegu
Year 2	Lila and the Secret of Rain	Vlad and the Great Fire of London	The Lonely Beast	The Dark Orion and the Dark	Where the Wild Things Are	Magic Finger
Year 3	Leon and the Place Between	George's Marvellous Medicine	Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age	Arthur and the Golden Rope	Tin Forest	The Stone Mouse
Year 4	The Lost Happy Endings	Wolf's Footprint	Varjak Paw		The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	
Year 5	Shakleton's Journey Ice Trap Newspapers		Street Child Oliver Twist Playscripts		Wolf Brother	
Year 6	Rose Blanche	Skellig	Odysseus	The Viewer Iron Man/Woman	Journey to the River Sea	

Teaching of Reading

Reading is taught discreetly for half an hour each day in years 2-6 through whole class teaching. A different text and text type is focused on each week, and the children build up their knowledge of this text through analysing it each day. The texts that are chosen are aimed at the year group and often link to the children's wider subjects, or interests. In this way, children are exposed to a range of text types, and further their knowledge of the wider curriculum and develop a love for reading. The use of film, song lyrics and picture images is also used to expand children's range further. The skills for reading are taught explicitly and children are taught how to think as readers. Reading skills are broken down into six key areas:

Vocabulary
Inference
Prediction
Explanation
Retrieve
Summarise

A different skill is taught through the text each day:

Monday – analysis of the text and vocabulary
Tuesday – vocabulary and grammar
Wednesday – retrieval
Thursday – inference

Pupils are encouraged to develop a love of reading in school through whole class reading books, daily OTTER (Own Time to Enjoy Reading) time, and weekly I Love Reading assemblies. Annual events such as World Book Day and Author visits are timetabled across the year.

Phonics

Please see separate details on the school website for our approach to Phonics teaching.

Reading at Home

As a school, working in partnership with our families is very important to us and no more so than in developing a love of books and reading.

Children are expected to read at home every day and a record of this must be made in the reading folder on Google Classroom.

Our popular Reading Cafes are held regularly. Parents are encouraged to attend these with their children and share a book together in the library. During this time, the English Leader supports parents with how to read with their children and information is given to support them with questioning children when reading with them at home.

Useful Website Links:

See separate attachment.