

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”

Malala Yousafzai

Intent

At Leavening, English is at the heart of the curriculum. Our aim is to ensure that all children have access to a high quality, creative and engaging English curriculum that enables them to become confident, fluent and enthusiastic communicators through speaking and listening, reading and writing. These transferable skills are developed and practised in different contexts and situations and across the wider curriculum.

What English looks like at Leavening

Implementation

We follow the National Curriculum programme of study, which ensures consistency and progression across school.

Phonics

Phonics is taught daily in Early Years (Nursery and Reception) and Year 1, following the Letters and Sounds scheme.

Reading

Reading is given a high priority at Leavening and is taught daily. In Early years and Key Stage 1, children are taught discrete reading skills in small groups with books tailored to their needs. In Key Stage 2, high quality texts are carefully chosen for children to read the same whole class novel. We aim to promote a love of reading and children are actively encouraged and rewarded for reading at home through our reading awards that are celebrated in our Together Time assemblies each week. Every classroom has a dedicated book corner and in the Early years and Key Stage 1 the theme in these reading corners change to keep the children engaged. Staff and Volunteers in school read with individual pupils. Our KS2 children also ‘buddy up’ with our EYFS and KS1 children and read together each week.

Spelling

Spelling is timetabled each day and is taught from Y2 to Y6 following the North Yorkshire spelling scheme. Children start each session with a spelling activity that is an opportunity to practise spellings and spelling strategies that have been taught. In addition, spellings are supplemented with weekly spelling homework.

Grammar and Punctuation

Discrete Grammar and Punctuation lessons are taught throughout the week. These lessons link to the genre being taught in writing and or reading lessons to ensure that

children have a strong awareness of the purpose and understanding of different grammatical features.

Handwriting

At Leavening Primary School, our aim is that our children will be able to write clearly, fluently and quickly so that they can cope with the everyday demands of life and school. Letter formation is taught from nursery and all children are introduced to cursive handwriting from Reception in the Early Years. This embeds the skills of handwriting in a cursive style from the beginning, developing confidence, accuracy and fluency. Our personalised learning approach ensures we only introduce cursive joined when pupils are confident in forming each letter correctly. Children are given regular handwriting lessons, appropriate to the year group and class needs to ensure that they are able to practise this skill.

Writing

Writing is taught daily and we endeavour to provide stimulating opportunities to inspire children to write for a variety of audiences and purposes. We use visitors into school and visits out of school to help to provide real experiences for children to write about. In addition, a variety of stimulus such as film, media and high quality books chosen by the pupils are used to motivate and enthuse children. Following the National Curriculum programme of study, children are taught to plan, draft, edit and proof read their work. We use ICT to support this where appropriate.

How we entwine English with our Leavening school values underpinning our purpose of 'Together We Can'

Care, share and belong

Children will learn to respect people from different backgrounds and periods through literature. They will develop empathy and compassion for other people through discussions about books. Children will show mutual respect for one another through collaborative discussion about their work.

Look and learn beyond the classroom

Children have the opportunity to read, write and create a wide variety of quality texts and explore and refine their work through editing and proof reading. They have a wide range of stimulus and write for a range of audiences. They have the chance to share and display their work in a variety of ways including digital displays for audiences and for displays in school.

Aim high so everyone can shine

Children are encouraged to aim high and produce work to a high standard. They are inspired by quality materials and an exciting English curriculum.

Learn with passion

Children are encouraged to develop and hone their skills through editing and evaluating and also proof reading. Feedback is used positively to show children how to improve and progress. Children use resilience to produce their best work by applying their skills to a range of tasks.

How we know our English curriculum is successful

Impact

- Children will leave Leavening with the skills to become successful, lifelong learners.
- Children will become independent and fluent readers, able to read with accuracy, understanding and enjoyment.
- Children will have the study skills so that they will know how to access information in non-fiction texts.
- Children will be empowered to communicate through all types of narrative and non-fiction writing with a strong sense of audience and purpose.
- Children will have a secure understanding of Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation.
- Children will develop confident speaking and listening skills to enable them to interact with others, express feelings and emotions and present, share and reflect upon opinions, ideas and experiences.