

English

When our children leave Overstone Primary School we want them to have a love of reading that enables them to read for pleasure and for understanding. In school we explore and offer access to a wide range of text types, genres and authors in order for them to make informed opinions about their favourites. We expect and encourage pupils to become avid readers: children who read fluently and widely and are able to express and share preferences and opinions about the texts that they have read.

We want to foster children who write with confidence and accuracy for a variety of purposes and audiences, whilst developing their own individual style and voice. 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.

We aim to expose our children to a wide range of vocabulary so that they are able to decipher new words and then use them when writing and speaking both informally and formally. We want our children to confidently communicate orally as well as through their writing. We also aim for our children to apply all of these English skills to all areas of the curriculum.

Phonics

Starting in Reception, we teach phonics through Read Write Inc (RWI). It is a systematic, fast paced approach to teaching phonics. The children read decodable books that match their phonics level whilst learning the first two sets of sounds.

VIPERS

Our reading weeks and reading sessions are underpinned by the VIPERS progression.

Teachers model and teach vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and sequence/summarise. These are then practised and applied independently.

Strong Vocabulary Development and Grammar

Weekly vocabulary is taught through spelling patterns following the Spelling Shed scheme and linked to the National Curriculum. Texts are chosen for shared reading, class readers and guided reading that contain strong and curriculum focused vocabulary.

Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation

From Year 2 to Year 6, we teach weekly SPaG lessons, following Pi Corbett's grammar for writing progressions and using the CGP developed workbooks for homework. Each weekly focus is then practised within our English lessons and applied across the wider curriculum subjects.

Handwriting

From Reception, we use Kinetic Letters in order to teach handwriting posture, strength and the formation of letters and numbers. Once handwriting is formed correctly, fluently and joined accurately children begin to write in pen.

Talk For Writing

We teach Pi Corbett's Talk for Writing across the school. Direct teaching of structure and language features. This is taught through modelled, shared, guided and independent writing.

Extended Writing

Each year group produces extended writing each half term. This focuses upon writing at length for: creativity, subject focus, based upon class reader and/or an area of learning that needs developing (for example character).

Performance for Writing

At Overstone Primary School we revisit text types through a half termly performance week. We use drama, debate, speaking and listening and group writing to recap upon previously taught text types.

Library

Each class has a weekly library slot to promote reading for pleasure and how to choose books within a library setting. It is run by our Year 6 pupils. The librarians run events such World Book Day and are regularly part of class library sessions.

Home Reading

Reception to free readers take home a RWI book and a library book to read at home.

Free readers are encouraged to read a fiction and non-fiction, choosing from their class library and the school library.