



ENGLISH INTENT

At Bishops Itchington School, we work hard to provide our children with a rich, exciting and varied English curriculum from Ladybirds' Preschool to the end of Year 6. We know our children well and listen to their literacy preferences and choices because we want them to become confident and enthusiastic learners who take charge of their own learning to move forward on their literacy journey. By using high quality texts with rich language and fascinating characters, we motivate our pupils to ask questions and become immersed in their English learning.

We want our children to have a positive attitude towards communication and to be able to independently express their emotions and their ideas. Through our English Curriculum, we strive to teach the children how important their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills will be in the real world. By giving this context to their learning, the children understand the value of English to them now, and in their futures.

We teach all English skills following the National Curriculum to provide our children with a sound knowledge in speaking and listening, phonics and reading, grammar and vocabulary and writing.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our English lessons are often taught in a cross-curricular way, linking up with other areas of the curriculum. We teach our pupils to speak clearly and listen well to convey their ideas confidently. We understand the value of a varied and expanding vocabulary and our curriculum and content allows opportunity to explore and embrace new words, even those of Shakespeare.

Through our links with the Royal Shakespeare Company, we annually learn about Shakespeare across the school in the Spring Term. This introduces rich vocabulary, drama and creative writing - also linking to other curriculum areas such as geography and history.

Our new and engaging phonics programme, Monster Phonics, enables pupils to learn early reading skills in a multi-sensory way with enjoyment and increased confidence. This innovative approach allows our children to recognise and group sounds using colours for quicker reference and make increased reading progress.

Whole class reading sessions develop children's reading skills, further providing access to an exciting range of non-fiction and narrative texts linked to phonics or grammar foci.

Throughout school, we use Talk for Writing to link our Reading and Writing voices. We enjoy storytelling and drama activities to explore characterisation and prepare pupils for writing. We prepare our children to take pride in their writing, understand their writing purpose, and to write with increased stamina and interest for the reader. We share our work with others during peer assessment and buddy reading sessions to allow children to discuss, reflect upon and share their work with their peers. As a school, we feel it is important to make links beyond our own school walls and so we invite authors to visit to share their work and work in class with children to bring a 'real working world' dynamic into class.

We have developed a range of extra activities to promote English within school including our termly Reading Challenge, World Book Day, Termly English Awards, handwriting awards, author visits and competitions, termly Wonderful Writers display pieces and we also offer an after-school club for drama. The Shakespeare Ambassadors in school also lead a lunchtime club and they are working towards an end of year Shakespearean themed. 'Bishop's Got Talent'.

Our library has recently been refurbished to create an attractive and relaxing environment in which children can enjoy their reading. All free-reading pupils in the school have been assessed so they know which age-appropriate books to select from the library shelves as they browse.

IMPACT

Children will:

- Read easily, fluently and with good understanding;
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information;
- Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistics for reading, writing and spoken language
- Through the study of Shakespeare, appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage;
- Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences;
- Use discussion in order to learn so they can elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas;
- By the end of their time at our school, are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.