



English—reading and writing

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Hello and welcome to our first curriculum newsletter, this time with a focus on English. Here you will find out some important information to help you keep up to date with all things related to English within school.

Thank you for taking the time to read it and if you have any questions feel free to get in touch.

Miss Huxley

English in the Curriculum

At Raddlebarn, we promote high standards of **language and literacy** by equipping pupils with a strong command of the **spoken and written language**, and we aim to develop their **love of literature** through widespread reading **for enjoyment**.

The National Curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- ♣ 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 linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- ♣ 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; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- ♣ are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

Writing

For writing teaching we follow Jane Considine's **The Write Stuff** approach. Writing is taught with an awareness of vocabulary, audience, purpose and context, and where possible, links are made to year group topics. Children work through units linked to writing purposes that develop in a logical sequence and are a mixture of experience lessons, skills lessons, teacher modelling, supported practice and opportunities for independence, resulting in a build-up of writing stamina and high-quality outcomes. To support them, they are taught how to use the 3 zones of writing: the FANTASTICS, the GRAMMARISTICS and the BOOMTASTICS; these are introduced gradually over time.

Spelling and phonics are taught daily. We teach phonics to EYFS and Year 1, then we use the Read Write Inc Spelling programme from Year 2-Year 6.



Reading

Children are exposed to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts over their school experience. We teach reading in small groups in Early Years and then use a whole class reading approach as children move into KS1. Where possible, texts to study are chosen based on class topics and the children's interests. In addition, we have some fantastic **Beanstalk** volunteers who come and support specific children.

Alongside reading lessons, allowing children time to read for enjoyment is important and this is achieved through story time, providing a selection of home reading books and ebooks, as well as hosting a range of reading experiences such as the **Roving Book Fair**, local **library visits**, **author visits** to school, trips to **Bournville Bookfest**, the **KS1 Bedtime Stories** event, the **KS2 Reading around the Campfire** event and of course **World Book Day** (and we hope to run these again this year!)

World Book Day in 2020 was such a super day—children dressed up and completed some fabulous reading activities throughout the day including creating 'book blankets', pairing up classes to do some peer reading and writing some awesome book reviews.

Last year the school library had a big revamp too with the support of the school's parent steering group and our children librarians—it is now a **non-fiction library** for children to come and do some research and find out about their interests. Parents and children did a grand job setting it all up, we ran a lunchtime group and just before lockdown we began running a morning library club (again we are hoping to start this up again this year).



Some lovely pictures from World Book Day in March 2020.



Whilst it is very early in the term, and we need to make sure we are being Covid safe at the moment, during the year we are hoping to continue all of the fabulous things we did last year and more!

We are very excited to say we have already arranged for **The REP** and **The Play House** to come in and complete drama work with some classes and I know there will be more to come when the time is right.