

# English at Laleham Primary

## Reading

Reading is a key skill and here at Laleham Primary we believe that children should be continually clocking up their reading miles, developing their reading skills and increasing their love of books.

'Individual Readers' come from a number of sources and are based on the Kent Agreed Reading Scheme. They are accurately grouped to age and National Curriculum expectations into colour bands. We have combined a range of different schemes including:

- Cambridge Reading Scheme
- Oxford Reading Scheme
- Starlight
- Spirals

and 'real' books in order that the children experience a wide range of genre, interest and author.

To ensure good communication between school and home about children's reading, each child has a contact book which should be taken home every evening and returned every morning. Every child will read most days alongside an adult either individually or during 'Book Talk', based on ability groups. In EYFS and KS1, where early reading skills are being developed, this is daily.

## Writing

Writing is taught systematically across the school daily according to National Curriculum expectations in terms of skills. Genre aspects of teaching are repeated throughout the year using different texts. Each unit of work focuses on developing sentence construction, vocabulary, sense of audience, punctuation, grammar and organisation. Wherever possible there are strong links across the subjects. Children use their Sentence Menus in every aspect of writing to scaffold their learning.

In handwriting, we teach the children to use cursive script with many children gaining their pen licence from Year4.

## Phonics and Spelling

In Laleham Primary, we follow the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics programme. From EYFS the children are taught discrete phonics every day where appropriate. The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check takes place in June. We continue phonics with children who have not yet met the required standards.

Spelling is taught discretely across KS1 and KS2. During these sessions children look at spelling patterns, rules and high frequency words. They are taught to proof read for errors, use dictionaries/thesauruses to support their spelling, develop mnemonics and learn about

how to use etymology to help with spelling. We also use Spelling cards which contain many high frequency words from 'Letters and Sounds' as well as the National Curriculum.

### Speaking and Listening

Speaking and Listening plays a significant role at Laleham Primary. We work closely alongside our onsite Speech and Language team working on individual and grouped targets for pupils. We have our own individualised progressive assessment targets which we use to set and track pupils.

The children have many opportunities to discuss, debate and relate events in order to become confident speakers and listeners.