

## Literacy Curriculum

### **Reading**

One of the aims of English in the new National Curriculum is to 'develop pupils' love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment'. This is to be achieved by ensuring that they 'develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information'.

In order to fulfill this at St Stephen's we provide children with opportunities to:

- Participate in daily interactive phonics sessions in EYFS and KS1 (using the DfE's Letters and Sounds programme)
- Read individually with an adult from a book according to their ability (Our main reading scheme is Oxford Reading Tree, although this is enhanced by the use of New Way and books from other schemes)
- Discuss, share and talk about real, quality texts in whole class sessions in order to improve comprehension skills and explore ideas about plot, characterisation, setting, themes and use of language
- Read independently and for pleasure from a wide range of texts and genres in daily 'Every One Read in Class' (ERIC) sessions in Key Stage 2
- Value books through reading through reading regularly to children, attractive book corners, participating in reading incentives and competitions and celebrating World Book Day etc.

### **Writing**

At St Stephen's all our literacy units are based around real, quality reading books. Children have the opportunity to read and share books in whole class sessions. Once fully immersed in the story, the text becomes a tool to explore ideas about plot, characterisation setting, themes and use of language. Class discussions give a context to grammar and syntax, which helps to develop and enrich pupils' own writing skills. Our curriculum provides children with opportunities to write across a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry genres (text types).

In addition to this, we provide the following opportunities for children to develop their writing skills:

- Explicit teaching of Grammar and Punctuation skills
- Regular structured practice of handwriting
- Daily interactive phonics sessions in EYFS and KS1 (using the DfE's Letters and Sounds programme)
- Weekly interactive and kinesthetic spelling sessions on different patterns and rules in KS2, with weekly follow up tests

### **Spoken language and drama**

Spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing. At St Stephen's we use drama across all our subjects. We share the view of the National Curriculum which states 'the quality and variety of language that pupils hear and speak are vital for developing their vocabulary and grammar and their understanding for reading and writing.

At St Stephen's children are given opportunities to:

- Re-tell and performs stories and poetry learnt by heart
- Participate in class discussions and debates
- Respond to books and stories in role through; freeze frames, hot seating; conscience alley and other techniques
- Orally compose ideas before writing
- Experience drama productions through visits out and groups performing in school
- Perform in front of a large audience in class assemblies and annual our fantastic Christmas productions

