

Literacy at Lakenheath Primary School

At Lakenheath Primary School, we aim to develop all our pupils' Literacy skills with a strong focus on fostering enthusiasm for reading and writing. We believe that developing language skills is extremely important and children follow structured programmes in writing, reading, spelling, speaking and listening and handwriting. Each class has a daily literacy lesson but these skills are embedded and interwoven through all areas of the curriculum.

Reading:

The teaching of reading is given high priority and parents are asked to partner the school and read with their children every evening. The school aims to encourage pupils to become confident, independent readers who can read for both enjoyment and information.

Children come to reading after a great deal of speaking and listening and the development of pre-reading skills is very important. In Key Stage 1, there is a focus on phonics (sounds of letters). We follow the Letters and Sounds programme for teaching phonics. Reading books to support phonics teaching come from the 'Phonics Bug' scheme throughout the key stage and, alongside this, we have a wide range of other reading material including fact, fiction and poetry from other schemes including 'Oxford Reading Tree', 'All Aboard' and 'Upstarts'. Children have phonics groups which target their individual needs and have daily sessions in Guided Reading within their classes.

In KS2, we build on the children's foundations in reading by following 'Rigby Navigator' guided reading scheme. Children have guided reading sessions throughout the week and are exposed to a range of genres involving both fiction and non-fiction books. For children who still need support from KS1, a 'Rapid Reader' scheme is followed to close the gap.

Writing:

Writing is taught in tandem with reading and is an integral part of the school curriculum as well as a key skill to be taught in literacy lessons. Children are encouraged to experiment in the many forms of writing and they are given opportunities to write for a variety of audiences, in a range of styles and for different purposes. Children have the chance to write an extended piece of independent writing on a fortnightly basis.

Speaking and listening:

Speaking and listening remains a focus for literacy as we believe that through maturing these skills, children can develop across the curriculum. Children are given opportunities throughout school to help with this development. In all subjects, children are provided with a variety of situations in which they can talk, listen, think, question and debate. To foster this, we encourage the children to respond to questions in full sentences. In KS2, every term, each child is encouraged to do a formal presentation or talk to their peers.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar:

In KS2, children build on their knowledge of phonics through the teaching of SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) sessions. These are taught discretely in targeted groups once a week but developed through into daily literacy lessons within each class.

Helping your child with literacy.

Of all the help you can give your child, the most important job you'll probably do is helping with reading. That's because learning to read is best taught on a one-to-one basis, so giving your child a bit of shared reading time every day will make a big difference.

Reading should be fun – that way it will be more effective. Here are some tips:

- Talk about the story and the characters as you go along.
 - Let your child take over reading gradually – don't push them into reading before they're ready.
 - Visit the library and borrow books you enjoy reading together.
 - Choose subjects your child prefers - factual books or stories.
 - Look for words in everyday life, not just books. Read newspaper headlines, shop signs or menus in cafes.
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