

## English lessons at Sparkenhoe

### Key Stage 1 and 2

All English lessons are between 40 and 60 minutes and each unit of work is between 2 and 3 weeks. The Medium Term Plans for English detail the rationale for the unit, progression from the previously linked units taught lower down the school and in previous units. To ensure progression across all year groups, we use the English National Curriculum and carefully break it into down into smaller steps which are progressive across units of work and Year groups.

All English units are taught in three phases. The first phase introduces the children to their new text through an exciting 'Hook'. The children will then read and explore the text and begin to recognise some of the common features within the text type.

During the second phase vocabulary, grammar and punctuation objectives are taught and children spend time exploring these in the text, discussing them and having a go at applying them orally. Modelling by the teacher is key to children learning these skills. Following this, children apply the new learning during purposeful 'mini writes', both supported and independently. In some units, children write more than one short piece in phase 2, in others they will edit, modify and add to a piece to improve it and apply new skills or they will practice a series of skills before applying them in a short piece of writing. Objectives are chosen to link closely to the style of writing and are repeated to ensure the skills are embedded. In the third phase, children unpick texts and gain a greater understanding and knowledge of structural and language features. This is followed by planning, drafting and editing a final piece which is the outcome of the unit. The IPEELL approach is used (National Literacy Trust) which supports both the planning and writing process.

In KS1 we have selected a range of high quality books which engage and support the children to be motivated and independent readers. We provide the children with literature from a range of authors to capture the interest and passion of children. Not only are texts diverse and exciting, where possible they are linked carefully to the other subject areas that the children are learning in class. We aim for the children to begin their early journey to read and write with purpose and enjoyment. In KS1 we teach children the skills to write for different purposes, to inform, to entertain and to enjoy.

In Year 1, children discover a new text every 2 weeks. The texts are selected carefully so they can build upon their decoding skills and read shorter texts with growing independence, whilst still relying on strong visual elements in books. The books selected identify themes of interest and the children can empathise with characters with familiar settings. Books range from read out loud rhyming books, classic stories, fun story books and age appropriate non – fiction books. The vocabulary, grammar and punctuation taught within the English units is contextualised so that children understand how to use new grammatical forms in real writing.

As children progress into Year 2, teachers introduce a new text every 3 weeks. They continue to enjoy a range of picture books that capture imagination through descriptive language. They also begin to handle some chapter books and recognise books by the same author or books with a similar theme. The children begin to discuss books with an increasing complexity of themes, including learning to empathise with characters' emotions. They also explore non-fiction books, many of which link in with their curriculum subjects. Each English unit in Year 2 covers 2 to 3 vocabulary, grammar or punctuation objectives. The children explore examples in high-quality texts so that it is not just an abstract notion. They apply these skills in a range of pieces of writing.

As they move through KS2 children are introduced to a new text in English lessons approximately every 3 weeks. They read a variety of fiction and non-fiction books as a stimulus and unpick structural and language features as appropriate. Children develop their skills in composition and effect, sentence construction, grammar, punctuation and handwriting. Children continue to learn the process of writing through an awareness of purpose, audience and text type. Alongside this they will analyse good examples of writing, in a widening variety of texts which are selected for engagement and challenge. They will write a range of genres from fiction and a range of non – fiction texts through a structured process of planning, drafting and editing. Towards the end of their journey, children will be equipped with the ability to plan and write for a range of audiences with increasing imagination, creativity, expressive language and critical awareness. Other subjects give ample opportunity for the children to apply their writing skills and through set of "Non Negotiables" the children make links with what they have learnt in English lessons. The children leave the school having read a wide variety of texts as a basis for their own writing. They are able to write in many different forms, with different levels of formality and in different styles, equipping them for the next stage in their education and giving them the tools to apply to other areas of their learning.