

Reading:

At Oak Hill we aim to encourage our children to have a life-long love of reading. We want all our children to read well for their age and enjoy reading for pleasure and information. All pupils have access to a free choice of levelled books to take home and share with parents and carers, and all classes visit our school library regularly to choose a book to enjoy. We expect children to read at least 3 times a week at home and for this reading to be recorded in home reading records. Children are rewarded with certificates half termly for regular home reading.

We have dedicated time in school each week for ERIC (Everyone Reading In Class) where we all stop and read for several minutes, and each class has a class book which they share together, listening to an adult reading aloud and discussing the characters, events and structure of the book together.

We use phonics as our main strategy to enable children to read. We teach reading through whole class and guided groups, with 1:1 programs of support for children who will benefit from it.

Group guided reading sessions are designed so that the teacher can assess and instruct pupils in their technical reading ability and guide them to develop good understanding of the text they are reading. The children are encouraged to engage in conversation about the book and ask questions about it. We also teach reading through a whole class reading approach using a high quality, challenging texts which are evaluated through high level questioning and discussion.

Speaking & Listening:

We recognise that the spoken word is the starting point for writing, as it is initially through the spoken word that children express their ideas and thoughts. We therefore ensure that the children learn to communicate and develop their ideas through role play, partner and group discussion, debate and oral rehearsal.

Writing:

Writing opportunities are closely linked to our drama based learning, so that there is purpose and meaning to the children's written work. We aim to foster a love of writing and ensure the children use their creative and imaginative minds, as well as develop their compositional and grammatical skills. Writing is taught as a whole class and through guided sessions which provide an essential step towards independent writing, with writing skills being taught through supported composition. Shared and modelled writing also have an essential part in the teaching of writing. The teacher will model how to compose writing and scribe class contributions.

In the early stages, pupils are encouraged to speak in sentences before attempting to write anything down and as they move further through the school a sequence of teaching and learning is developed so pupils are ready and equipped to write in whatever genre is being studied. In Reception and the beginning of Year 1 pupils work closely with the teacher in focused sessions to encourage them to 'have a go' and be successful writers. Free writing choices are always available inside and outside the classroom.

Spellings:

Great emphasis is placed on spelling within English lessons and spelling lessons are taught daily from Years 2 -4 following the Babcock No Nonsense Spelling document. In Year 1, there is a high focus on phonics and learning the spelling rules outlined in the National Curriculum. The children are required to learn selected words, which support their reading and writing activities. Spellings to learn are given each week and as half termly target words, and regular spelling tests are used to check children's progress.