

Bacton Primary School



English

Intent

Bacton Primary School recognises that teaching and learning in English is an essential part of the whole development of all children. It enables them to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate effectively.

We are committed to ensuring all pupils leave Year 6 communicating, reading and writing with confidence, fluency and understanding, using a range of independent strategies, to take responsibility for their own learning, with a love of reading and a desire to read for enjoyment and with an interest in words and their meanings.

Bacton is a small, rural, community which is made up of a range of different families. We are therefore aware that children start school with a vast range of experiences, knowledge and language resulting in a considerable gap in some instances. These gaps in the children's experiences and knowledge are identified quickly and planned for.

Children develop as passionate readers, where reading is used not just to develop their subject specific knowledge, but widen their understanding of their own and other cultures and societies, build their emotional intelligence and grow their imagination. Children will experience the shared reading of a broad range of texts and be motivated to read widely both inside and outside of school. They will build a strong understanding that reading is for gaining information across the curriculum and for pleasure.

Teachers will directly teach ambitious vocabulary drawn from the carefully considered books and texts read, as well as the wider curriculum and the world around them so that children have a wide vocabulary when they enter secondary school and are able to make connections between texts, their lives and the wider world. Children's strong understanding of grammar and transcriptions skills enable them as confident writers.

Implementation

We understand that children begin their journey as writers, readers and effective communicators in the Early Years and therefore strive to ensure that the children in our Reception class are provided with a language rich environment, both indoors and outdoors. We nurture a child's love of learning by expanding on his or her own inquisitive nature. We are responsible for creating an environment of support that allows children to develop their own ideas, express their feelings, take risks, make choices, and most of all, grow to be strong, thinking individuals.

A rigorous programme of systematic synthetic phonics (Bug Club and Rapid) provides children with the tools to decode, before building fluency and the ability to comprehend and question independently. As children move through the school, they are taught to retrieve, summarise, infer, predict, discuss meaning and make comparisons and links.

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Bacton School values the importance of reading for pleasure and with no library in the village; we ensure that all children regularly have access to a range of high quality texts through our Daily Supported Reading and Destination Reader programmes. These programmes offer children the chance to read daily, discuss books in groups and to practise comprehension skills. We are determined to develop the love of reading in all of our children, without exception.

English is taught using Power of Reading techniques. These techniques provide creative stimuli for the children which encourages them to develop and apply a rich vocabulary. We ensure that our English lessons are based upon the use of high quality texts that install a passion for reading in our children and leave them wanting to find out more. Our school demographic does not reflect a wide range of ethnic or cultural backgrounds so it is of vital importance that we ensure that our children are exposed to books that come from a range of different cultures and literacy heritage.

Our children are given time to respond to a wide range of texts, considering how they would feel in a range of different situations and discussing the morals shown through the actions of different characters. This creative and vocabulary rich beginning to each new text equips children with a range of ideas and skills that they can apply in extended pieces of writing.

Impact

We use a variety of strategies to evaluate the knowledge, skills and understanding that our children gain as they progress from Reception to Year 6:

- CPD to ensure that teacher pedagogy and assessment is secure.
- Regular feedback marking and pupil voice feedback.
- Subject monitoring, including book scrutinies and learning walks.
- Regular low stakes knowledge assessments, using a range of creative approaches.
- Cross-trust moderation to ensure secure teacher judgements.
- PiRA and PiXL tests to support our teachers' assessment.
- Continuous phonics and reading assessments to ensure our children are provided with appropriate challenge and support.

Enrichment

Our children are given every opportunity to participate in a wide range of learning experiences beyond their classroom. These experiences, including trips to museums, the theatre, adventure centres and community projects, provide children with stimulating real-life experiences to pin their reading, writing and speaking development to. They

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will meet and work with authors and build their knowledge of literature. English learning is practised and embedded across the curriculum. Speaking and writing outcomes draw from knowledge gained in other subjects and English skills are used to enhance learning elsewhere. Children learn to collaborate and learn from each other to achieve outcomes.

Full details of the texts selected for Destination Reader and Power of Reading can be found on our Curriculum Overview.