

'Shine like stars' Philippians 2:15

ENGLISH VISION STATEMENT

All of our curriculum is designed so all children have the opportunity to grow and develop the gifts that God has given to them and to know their value and worth in His world.

Intent

At Lowdham C of E Primary School we believe that English and communication are fundamental life skills. They develop children's ability to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes. Through the English curriculum, children are enabled to develop the skills and knowledge that equip them to communicate effectively and creatively through spoken and written language, encouraging them to become life-long learners. English is at the heart of all learning and is central to the whole curriculum at Lowdham. We want our pupils to be life-long readers and to see books as a gateway to learning and adventure.

Implementation

Children are enabled to express themselves creatively and imaginatively as they become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama, as well as of non-fiction and media texts. They gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. Children use their knowledge, skills and understanding in speaking and writing across a range of different situations.

In EYFS, language and English development are incorporated in all areas of learning and children communicate thoughts, ideas and feelings. The journey of phonics learning begins here and daily phonics continue through Key Stage 1, using the main driver of Phonics Bug Club. Sessions include playing games, learning rhymes and songs, writing and the use of phonics software. The phonics focus continues into Key Stage 2 to ensure that all children become confident readers.

As a school we embrace a broad and balanced approach to the curriculum; this means that our English lessons are linked across a range of subjects. Our topics are the 'driver' – these are either Science, Geography or History based. Quality texts are used to inspire and model writing – these also are topic linked.

Reading and books are championed, celebrated and actively encouraged at Lowdham. All children from EYFS through to Y6, have at least a weekly Guided Reading session with adult support provided by teachers and TAs throughout the week. Each class has a new library collection from ELS delivered every half term with a range of fiction and non-fiction books linked to the class topic. We have also invested in an online library of books for children so that these can be accessed remotely to support reading.

Author visits are a regular occurrence through which the children are inspired to see themselves as authors of their own stories. We have strong links with the local Lowdham bookshop 'The Bookcase'. This has been developed further by organising a book savings scheme and running an in-school book stall for children.

Speaking and listening activities are embedded throughout the Curriculum. Children have the opportunity to experience a wide range of texts, and to support their work with a variety of resources, such as dictionaries, thesauruses and individual word banks.

We encourage parents throughout school to support their children, particularly in reading and have a number of reading volunteers who come in and read with pupils on a regular basis.

Impact

Through the English curriculum at Lowdham Primary, children are enabled to develop a love of books and reading, a confidence in writing across a range of genres and the skills to communicate their ideas, thoughts, opinions and aspirations articulately. Children are able to communicate for a wide variety of purposes and to examine their own and others experiences, feelings and ideas which gives these order and meaning. The children's ability to communicate confidently affects their intellectual, emotional and social development and we are proud of the way our pupils are able to coherently express their thoughts and ideas. All this is evaluated and monitored through a range of regular learning walks, book scrutinies, drop-in lesson observations and pupil conferencing.