



English Intent

Reading, writing, speaking and listening together form the key components of human communication. We learn from one another through our ability to communicate and so it is true that English lies at the heart of all learning at Parkside Community Primary School.

Reading is the door to creativity and to greater knowledge; it is the gateway to fantastic, imaginary realms, planets and worlds. Research tells us that children who read for pleasure on a daily basis develop a wider vocabulary, greater general knowledge and a far better understanding of other cultures. It is perhaps one of the single most important factors in a child's development. Naturally, we therefore believe that it is every child's right to learn to read, but we hope that our children go far beyond this to develop a life-long love and pleasure for reading.

Through discrete phonics sessions that follow Letters and Sounds and one-to-one reading with an adult, we teach our youngest children how to decode the written word, whilst building a greater understanding of comprehension as children develop through listening to books being read aloud, investigating them together as a class or guided groups, or working together as a class on shared activities. We develop greater understanding through detailed exploration of whole books, short texts, art work, videos and music, encouraging children to play an active role in the reading process through an understanding of what makes a 'good comprehender.' Staff are reading roles models who demonstrate and encourage a love for reading, and children have access to a wide variety of reading materials through the school library, visiting authors, Buster's Book Club and the carefully selected texts used in the teaching of English. Staff track the progress of children throughout the year, ensuring that each child is supported and challenged to read at their appropriate level, whilst also celebrating progress both in class and on a whole school level.

Writing

From the earliest stages of emergent writing in the Foundation Stage, we aim to foster a true love of storytelling and writing through Pie Corbett and Talk 4 writing. We recognise the role that 'talk' plays in our understanding of the written word and so, through 'Talk for Writing,' children are regularly given opportunities to listen to and retell stories and non-fiction texts. Through retelling texts, using actions or drama to help internalise patterns, children are able to first imitate, but then innovate and invent their own version of a text. Children are supported in their ability to innovate upon a known text through shared and guided writing, whilst the invention stage teaches children the subtleties of an author's craft. Effective feedback marking directly involves pupils in their continued progress whilst informing future planning for individuals and groups. Children are encouraged to reflect on their own learning, and the learning of their peers, and to edit and improve their writing as a result.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar forms an even more important role in the English curriculum than ever before. We believe that a secure understanding of these aspects is incredibly important to develop a true conceptual understanding of English. However, we also strongly believe that children are entitled to a rich, varied and stimulating learning experience and so our teaching of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar is embedded within our teaching of writing. At the beginning of the year, we introduce new punctuation or grammar concepts when it is best placed to support children's writing at that time, whilst spelling forms a constant and frequent part of our practice.

Throughout the school year, we encourage our whole school community to get involved in a range of events to celebrate our love of English, with an intention of creating lifelong lovers of reading and writing.

Just a few of these opportunities include –

- Local or national writing competitions
- Book week and PJ night
- World Book Day
- Reading Together Events
- Visiting authors
- Visits to and from local library
- Buster's Book Club