

English at Sycamore

English is a crucial part of what we do at Sycamore Academy. Through carefully planned reading, writing, spelling and speaking opportunities we aim to develop children who are able and confident to tackle the challenges that they come across. We work with a text based curriculum which means that a high quality story, non-fiction book or other text is used to drive forward the core areas which we are learning about. We try to link the texts to the topic we are studying and this topic is linked to a subject focus which the whole school shares.

Phonics

Phonics is taught to children from Foundation 1 through to year 2 using Jolly Phonics. Jolly Phonics is a synthetic phonics programme which teaches children the building blocks of language. They then use these to develop their reading and writing skills which they use in all aspects of their life. Jolly Phonics is a systematic programme which means that it is taught in a 7 week cycle in which children learn, revisit and apply what they have been taught alongside the familiar characters of Snake, Bee and Mouse.



Spelling



Read Write Inc. Spelling is a robust, fast paced, systematic spelling programme for children in years 2-6. The programme aims to ensure that children spell new words correctly and have plenty of practice spelling them, children spell words as accurately as possible using their phonic knowledge and other knowledge of spelling, such as morphology (the study of the form of words) and etymology (the study of the origin and developments of words), that children are supported in understanding and applying the concepts of word structure and that children spell words that they have not yet been taught by using what they have learnt about how spelling works in English.

Handwriting

Nelson Handwriting is a clearly structured programme for developing a fluent and legible handwriting style. The main areas which children will cover from Foundation 2 to year 6 are handwriting patterns, pencil control, letter formation, numerals, the 4 joins and the letter breaks, printing, writing with a slant, decorated capitals, punctuation, speedwriting, presentation, paragraphs, individual style, difficult joins and handwriting for different purposes.



Reading

Reading is a very important part of our English work. We have opportunities to read alone, read as a class with our focus books and we also read in groups during Guided Reading. We listen to ourselves, our friends and the adults read and we should all be reading at home. Our Guided Reading books are from the Active Learn reading scheme.

Visit our planning pages to find out which area of English we are learning about at the moment.