



English at Gladstone Road School

In Reception and Key Stage One the children progress through the Letters and Sounds programme. Through daily phonics sessions, children learn to first of all hear and then write each phoneme (sound) using single letters, pairs or groups of letters. Children then learn how to blend sounds together to form words. In Reception children become familiar with letter sounds through the Jolly Phonics songs and actions. Throughout KS1 children learn the different ways to write each sound and the spelling rules which help them to decide which grapheme to use. Handwriting is taught daily in Reception and KS1, alongside continuous provision in Reception for children to practise letter formation in a range of sensory ways through the free-flow activities.

In KS1 English planning is based on topics. In Year One, each half term the children focus on a book which relates to their topic. We follow carefully planned teaching sequences which allow children to become very familiar with the characters, plot, setting and storyline; practising verbal and written sentences throughout the unit. Each unit builds up to children writing a piece of independent work that is based on the book they have been using. These units are enhanced by visits and visitors which encourage the children to develop a love of reading and writing. In Year Two the children also follow carefully planned teaching sequences which relate to a topic, often starting with a trip or a visitor to capture their interest. They explore a range of genres of writing, building up to independent pieces of work which reflect the learning that has taken place.

Children have two sessions of Guided Reading each week, which is carefully planned to support both the teaching of reading and the understanding of a text. Children take banded books home to read. They are encouraged to choose books which interest them and we offer a range of genres and topics which appeal to all children. Classes enjoy regular story sessions, fostering a love of reading and the enjoyment that comes from sharing a book together.