Bollington St. John’s Church of England

Primary School



*Where talent grows*

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Walker

Head of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Mrs E. Watson

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord”*

***Colossians 3:23***

**English Overview:**

Developed by ‘The Literacy Tree,’ the English Curriculum immerses children in a literary world to provide meaningful and authentic contexts for writing. Children acquire an authorial style by engaging with significant authors and this has been developed into a cohesive whole-school approach, where sequences of work are provided that sit under themes which are mapped throughout the school where possible using the International Primary Curriculum.

The use of high quality literature is important in schools; it expands its readers' horizons, opening minds to concepts and themes such as love, war and justice, as well as providing vital insights into historical settings with geographical and scientific knowledge woven within as part of the narrative.

The English Curriculum is a complete, thematic approach to the teaching of primary English that places children’s literature at its core.

Children explore over ninety literary texts and experience at least seventy-five unique significant authors as they move through the school. As a whole-school approach, it provides complete coverage of all National Curriculum expectations for writing composition, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary, as well as coverage of spelling, phonics and reading comprehension.

All plans lead to purposeful application within a wide variety of written outcomes. These high quality texts have formed the basis of our class reading spines. Each class has a bank of quality texts linked to literacy outcomes and cross curricular Kapow topics alongside carefully chosen whole class novels suitable for each age group.

One of our key strengths as a school is the enthusiasm we have for the teaching of vocabulary. Each classroom has a vocabulary tree displayed within it. As new words are learnt and collected from morning sentence work, class novels and topic work they are displayed on each class tree and children are encouraged to use these in their independent written work and spoken language.

**Phonics:**

Read Write Inc (RWI) is a phonics complete literacy programme which helps all children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. The programme is designed for children aged 4-7. However, at Bollington St John’s Primary we begin the programme in Reception and will continue teaching RWI to children beyond the age of 7, as we use a stage not age approach. RWI was developed by Ruth Miskin and more information on this can be found at <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

All children are assessed regularly by our RWI lead teacher. From these assessments children are grouped into stages, where they work with peers on the same stage.

We track each child’s individual progress on the online assessment tracker. We use this to identify children who need more support through daily one-to-one tutoring.

**Reading**

The children:

* Learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letters/letter groups using simple picture prompts – see below
* Learn to read words using Fred talk and sound blending
* Read from a range of storybooks and non-fictions books matched to their phonic knowledge
* Work well with partners
* Develop comprehension skills in stories by answering 'Find It' and 'Prove It' discussion questions

**Writing**

The children:

* Learn to write and form the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds with the help of fun phrases
* Learn to write words by using Fred Talk
* Learn to build sentences by practising sentences out loud before they write

**Talking**

The children work in pairs so that they:

* Answer every question
* Practise every activity with their partner
* Take turns in talking and reading to each other
* Develop ambitious vocabulary

**Grammar:**

Within KS2 we use the Pearson Grammar bug scheme, alongside the National Curriculum Spellings which covers spelling, punctuation and grammar. These are short lessons which come with interactive resources and follow up activities and assessments.

**Reading:**

At Bollington St John’s Primary we believe that reading is fundamental to every child’s academic success and lifelong learning.

Research consistently shows that children who are regularly read to and who read at home perform better in school, develop stronger language skills, and build a lifelong love of reading. Parents and caregivers play a crucial role in fostering these habits by creating a home environment that values and supports reading.

It is our policy to actively promote and support daily reading at home between children and their parents or caregivers. The school will partner with families to cultivate a culture of reading that extends beyond the classroom.

**Guidelines and Expectations**

1. Daily Reading Time:

• All students are encouraged to read or be read to at home for at least 15–20 minutes each day.

• This time may include reading independently, reading aloud with a parent, or listening to audiobooks.

2. Family Involvement:

• Parents/caregivers are encouraged to talk about books with their children, ask questions, and show interest in their child’s reading choices.

• Regular visits to the library and access to a variety of reading materials at home are strongly encouraged.

3. Reading Logs or Journals:

• Teachers will provide reading logs or journals to help track home reading and encourage accountability and reflection.

• These tools should be used positively and not as a means of punishment.

4. School Support:

• We commit to whole class reading everyday for at least 20 minutes. This includes picture books, novels and poetry books.

• We will provide families with resources, book recommendations, and tips on reading strategies for different age levels.

• As a school, we will organise reading events such as World Book Day, phonics workshops, and book fairs to promote engagement.

• In EYFS and KS1 we will send home a ‘Reading Case’ to one family each week; this will contain a blanket, teddy, a book and journal. This is to encourage reading time together at home and to share thoughts and feelings about the story.

• In EYFS and KS1 we will invite a ‘Secret Reader’ into school (this can be a family member) to share their favourite storybooks from home. This is a fantastic way to build enthusiasm for sharing stories together.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

• School Staff: Provide high-quality reading instruction, communicate the importance of home reading, and support parents with tools and strategies.

• Parents/Caregivers: Foster a daily reading routine, encourage discussion about books, and serve as reading role models.

• Students: Engage in reading at home, share their reading experiences, and take responsibility for their reading habits.