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 IPC 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:**

From Reception to Year 2, children receive daily phonics lessons in line with the ‘Letters and Sounds’ guidance from the Department for Education.

We follow the comprehensive planning from Monster Phonics to support the children's daily learning. Monster Phonics is designed as a whole-class scheme for children in Reception and Key Stage 1 and as an intervention in Key Stages 1 and 2, with all resources mapped against the Letters and Sounds phases 1 to 6 and the KS1 Spelling Curriculum.

The colour-coded grapheme system is unique to Monster Phonics; each coloured grapheme is paired with a monster character that makes the same sound to give audio- visual prompts that help children ‘see’ each sound within a word and pronounce it correctly. Stories, songs and activities are carefully woven into these lessons which are highly engaging. Colour-coded flash cards, word charts and PowerPoints make the teaching of the Common Exception and High-Frequency words far easier.

Children are also invited to a fun after school Phonics club where they play games, create pieces of art, crafts and learn songs relating to our monster phonics scheme.

Children are assessed regularly using the Phonics tracker system. This tracks cohorts, individual children and ability groups. It provides teachers with targeted interventions for gaps in phonic knowledge alongside targeted home learning activities which have been tailored to each child’s specific needs. Using this system, lower attaining children are identified quickly and interventions are put in place accordingly.

**Grammar:**

Within KS1 and KS2 we use the Pearson Grammar bug scheme, alongside Spelling Support, which covers spelling, punctuation and grammar. These are short lessons which come with interactive resources and follow up activities and assessments.

**Reading:**

We continue to encourage reading at home and offer reward schemes for pupils who continue to read with adults at home. Children take home a book that matches their phonic ability.

Children are also encouraged to take home books to share with parents such as poetry books and non-fiction books.

Every week an EYFS/KS1 child gets to take home the ‘Snuggle Case’ which includes a high quality picture book to share at home with a parent and record their thoughts in a diary.

We endeavor to change the children’s books once or twice a week; however, we also encourage parents to come in and access the school library before and after school themselves. Year 2 children are encouraged to change their books themselves. Parents have been sent advice leaflets as to how to read successfully with their children at home. We also provide a Reading at home workshop to engage parents with reading at home and ensure they see the benefits.

Teachers read a class story to their class on a daily basis which can be referenced in our class reading spines.

Parents and children were asked to make their own reading rivers. This was a project that involved parents sharing their reading journeys with their children and hopefully passing on their passion and enthusiasm for reading to start the children off on their own reading journeys.

One of our strengths is a huge reading community which encourages parents and members of the community to come in and read with the children. Parents are also encouraged to come in and do secret reader which is a fun and engaging way in which parents are encouraged to read to their children and their friends.

KS1 uses the daily ‘Pobble’ website to promote good listening skills and gives them an opportunity to discover new vocabulary. A love of reading and a whole school reading culture has been developed from Rec - Y6 all of which is evidenced in the reading concept book. ‘The Literacy Tree’ planning pulls together all of these strands through high quality texts.

Children are taught separately according to year group for guided reading in KS2 using the ‘Bug Club’ guided reading scheme. Small group reading is taught in KS1 along with ‘Literacy Counts’ whole class reading.