

# English

**Great importance is placed on the teaching of English within day-to-day learning at Eveline Day School.**

The development of English skills is seen as a key part of the curriculum, as these skills underpin success in every subject. The skills focused on can be largely grouped into distinct but interrelated areas: phonics (in the Lower School); reading for meaning and pleasure; writing for different purposes and audiences; handwriting and spelling; speaking and listening. Children progress in each of these skills as they move through the school.

We aim to foster a life-long passion for reading and an appreciation of literature in every child as ***reading enjoyment is the most important factor in children's educational and later success.*** From participation in the 'Power of Reading' development programme, author visits during Book Week, participation in poetry competitions, library visits, focused studies of an author's works and Shakespeare workshops at The Globe Theatre in Year 5 and 6, our school is enlivened by the magical world opened up through a love of the written and spoken word.

## EARLY YEARS

In Early Years children are taught reading and writing through a well-structured and dynamic synthetic phonics programme which equips children with the essential building blocks that they need to progress in reading and writing. They are encouraged to speak and listen and represent ideas in their activities through small world and role play. They are given opportunities to use language and literacy in every area of the curriculum and are immersed in an environment which is rich in print and offers many opportunities for communication.

## KEY STAGE 1

In Years 1 and 2, we continue teaching a well-structured and dynamic synthetic phonics programme building seamlessly on skills learnt in Early Years.

Targeted writing sessions consolidate emerging awareness of spelling, syntax and punctuation. Children are encouraged to work both independently and in small guided groups, and are based around quality, inspiring texts through the Power of Reading Scheme. Weekly news writing in Year 1 and 'Big Write' opportunities in Year 1 and 2 are other opportunities for children to write at length.

Reading is taught both through shared reading of texts in class, guided reading as a class or in small groups. Children are given plenty of opportunity to put their newly learned skills into practice during one-to-one individual reading sessions with their class teacher or teaching assistant.

Speaking and listening is developed through many different opportunities to interact with adults and peers, including role play, working in 'talk partners' and taking part in assemblies and plays.

We teach a cursive handwriting style from the very beginning, with our eventual aim being a fluid cursive script for every child. This ensures that as our children work towards using more complex sentence structures and making more adventurous vocabulary choices, their creativity is enabled free rein by their ability to record their thoughts quickly and fluently.

## **LOWER KEY STAGE 2**

Underpinned by the reading and writing skills gained in Key Stage 1, children now aim towards a more developed application of these skills.

Through carefully chosen texts in 'The Power of Reading Programme' they explore a wealth of literature in more detail and from different angles, beginning to develop the inference and deduction skills needed to read at a higher level of understanding. These skills are further developed in comprehension lessons. Fluency and precision are still checked through one-to-one individual reading sessions.

Writing is linked closely to reading, using examples of a wide range of text types to learn authorial intent and techniques. Children continue to benefit from 'Big Write' sessions focusing on exploring characters and settings and experimenting with different writing devices such as figurative language.

Speaking and listening is an important focus, with children studying performance poetry in their Speech and Drama lessons.

## **UPPER KEY STAGE 2**

In Upper Key Stage 2, children take on greater autonomy in writing creatively and expressing themselves through the written word. Dynamic creative writing opportunities are afforded through studying more sophisticated texts in 'The Power of Reading' programme and via 'Big Write' sessions which ensure that children are inspired by the wealth of literary devices available to them. They are encouraged to experiment with their own literary 'voice' in poetry and prose, across a wide range of genres.

Author studies and comprehension lessons remain a key part of the curriculum, with children also expected to read texts from a breadth of genres independently. Reading comprehension lessons take a further step in understanding texts and ensure that children are well prepared for their senior school examinations in Year 6.

Year 5 and 6 children are introduced to a wider appreciation of literature and criticism through performing and reading poetry and plays including Shakespeare, preparing them effectively for more detailed study in their years at senior school.

Speaking and listening continues to have a heightened focus, with children giving presentations on topics to their own and other classes, studying performance poetry in their Speech and Drama lessons and having the chance to practise interview technique with Miss Eveline in preparation for their secondary school transfers.