

Literacy Statement
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Phonics

At St Teresa's we follow Letters and Sounds from EYFS upwards. 2 short sessions taught daily in EYFS and Year 1. Additional phonics sessions are available as necessary in small groups for the rest of the school.

The children are taught to sound button their words which helps them when reading new words and also with their spelling. This strategy is taught during phonics sessions and it is encouraged during writing and reading activities.

Teach Your Monster is used as an additional online resource to support children with their phonics.

At the end of Year 1 the children are formally assessed in the Phonics Screening Check. If the children do not meet the standard, then they receive additional phonics teaching in Year 2 and will be reassessed at the end of KS1.

Reading

To become successful readers the children are able to access:

- Oxford Reading Tree scheme starting in EYFS
- Dandelion Readers scheme for children who need additional phonics support
- POPs resource for SEN children.
- Class libraries offering a wide range of texts and a school library which the children access independently using a fingerprint scanner.

Children in EYFS and KS1 read once a week to an adult who will support them with phonics and verbal comprehension activities. Every child has a Reading Record which includes phonics advice for the younger children and spelling and grammar tips for Key Stage 2. Teaching staff in EYFS and KS1 read high quality texts to the children during story time to continue to encourage a love for learning.

We offer the children 'Reading for Pleasure' time during which they are able to choose their own reading book.

Every class teaches comprehension skills 2-3 times a week using a range of texts covering fiction, non fiction and poetry. Year 1 - Year 6 use comprehension activities from HeadStart, Twinkl and Ticking Texts for those children who find comprehension difficult. All classes use the Reading Strategy VIPERS (vocabulary, inference, predicting, explaining, retrieval, summarise/sequence).

Writing

We use the Talk for Writing structure for our Literacy lessons. The children spend time learning a text using a story map so that they can fully understand the structure of the story and language.

The children write a Cold Task (on blue) at the start of a unit and then once the children have been taught necessary grammar points or writing structures they complete a Hot Task (on yellow) to see the progress throughout the unit.

Teachers use Shared Writing to model sentence structure, punctuation and use of language. The children participate in these sessions by offering ideas. During these sessions we encourage the children to use learning partners, speaking and listening skills as well as language and ideas they may have picked up from their reading books.

Handwriting

At St Teresa's the children are taught to form their letters in a cursive style from EYFS. A correct pencil grip is taught from the start of their time at St Teresa's. The children are encouraged to join their letters in a fully cursive script from Year 2 onwards. In Year 3 the children can earn a Pen License if they write neatly and legibly. The children are reminded to keep all letters the same size, not to join letters to capital letters and to keep descenders below the line.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Grammar points are taught within Literacy, Topic and RE lessons. Each class has a GPS display which the children are encouraged to use so that they can work independently.

Some Grammar activities are taken from CGP books, Twinkl and HeadStart.

Common Exception Word spellings are taught in Year 1 - Year 6. Year 1 teach them as part of the Phonics session, while the other classes split these spellings into shorter lists. The children are tested once a week and if they can spell the words, they are given the next set.

Children in Year 1 - Year 6 have spag.com accounts and can access activities and tests focussing on all areas of the National Curriculum for Grammar. This resource is used weekly in school and during the Year 5/Year 6 Grammar Club.

Spoken Language

The children are encouraged to speak clearly and confidently. Grammar is corrected as well as mispronunciation of words.

During lessons the children may engage in role play activities, which again give the teachers the opportunities to assess their speaking skills and to offer advice where necessary.