

Why is it important to teach English?

At North Road we believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. We aim to inspire pupils to become lifelong, avid readers of a wide variety of genres and to use adventurous vocabulary in their speech and written work. The development of speech and access to rich and varied vocabulary is a key life skill. Being a competent writer, reader, speller and speaker, who can transfer English skills to other curriculum subjects is our aim here at North Road. We believe this will prepare our children for the next steps in their education and will lead to Improved life opportunities.

Events and learning opportunities

- Roald Dahl Day
- World Book Day
- Rotary Club Creative Writing and Poetry Competition
- Christmas Nativity Performance
- Key Stage 2 Summer Production
- Theatre trips to our local Secondary school
- Theatre trips at our local library
- Summer Reading Challenges, promoted by our local library
- Visits by our local librarian
- Family Reading Cafe
- Stay-and-Read family event
- Classroom 'Secret Readers'
- Class led Assemblies and Poetry Recitals

What does English look like at North Road?

At North Road, we encourage and foster a love of reading through the use of specially designed areas in which 'reading for pleasure' can take place. We use both our indoor and outdoor environment, for example the school library, classroom reading spaces and our playground reading teepee. We follow the Reading Vipers approach to reading, which is taught daily and focuses on teaching vocabulary, inference, prediction, explaining, retrieving and summarising. We are a reading staff and all classrooms have a teachers bookshelf where 'recommended reads' and favourite books can be borrowed. All pupils enjoy listening to a story or chapter of their class book before the end of the school day. In our weekly teacher assemblies, we share text by an 'author of the term'. These link to mental, physical health and school values. All pupils have the opportunity to regularly visit the school library. We promote the habit of daily reading through our school reading awards.

Phonics is taught daily in Early Years and Key Stage 1. Where appropriate, pupils in Key Stage 2 receive phonics lessons. We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where pupils take pride in their writing, can write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts. We want to inspire our pupils to be confident and competent in the art of speaking and listening, so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others effectively. We use drama and role-play across the school to encourage creative writing. Our cross-curricular approach provides many enriched opportunities to develop and apply writing skills across the curriculum.

What our children say....

"I enjoy English because I get a chance to write stories and use my imagination."

"I love reading, especially adventure stories."

"Role-play and drama make our English lessons really fun. I especially like conscience-alley as we get to give advice when a character has a decision to make."