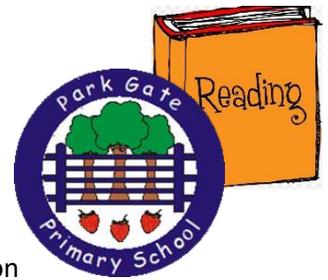


## Park Gate English Curriculum



### Reading

At Park Gate Primary School we are readers and our school culture is centred on a passion for books and reading for pleasure both inside and outside of school. Rich texts thread through our curriculum and children are exposed to both classic literature and new, exciting novels to spark their creativity and imagination through carefully chosen whole class texts.

Love for reading begins in Early Years where the children begin their reading journey, learning initial sounds and rhyming patterns through phonics teaching, which is currently based on Letters and Sounds, alongside sharing and enjoying stories, group and individual reading. Opportunities for independent learning also allows the children to seek these sounds in their environment, sparking their excitement and curious minds into becoming a reader.

If you walk into KS1, you will find the zest for reading continues; with the children building upon their independence and fluency by reading books which are focused on the phonics they have been taught. Guided reading sessions are also prevalent, allowing the children to begin to retrieve and infer how characters in the story may be feeling and make predictions about traditional tales. Fairytale dress up days and visits from a mischievous Goldilocks hook the children in and excite them about reading and our integrated curriculum.

The children are able to develop themselves as sustained and fluent readers in KS2, successfully using the decoding skills taught previously in KS1. Our children are expected to read for a range of purposes and understand how audience intent is key to the success of a text. Developing a rich vocabulary is extremely important to us and with the children's help, 'Wow word' walls grow; allowing the children to discuss unfamiliar vocabulary, exposing them to a diet of rich and exciting new language for them to use in their writing too.

Whilst reading in guided reading sessions and small groups, the children are constantly referring to our school's V.I.P.E.R.S (vocabulary, infer, predict, explain, retrieve and summarise/sequence) strategy for comprehension. As a school we have adopted this technique as a way of depicting which skills the children need to be using in order to understand a given text.

Reading for pleasure is extremely important to at Park Gate. Our beautiful library was refurbished through parent donations and is proudly looked after by our pupil librarians. Reading extends outside of the classroom too with events for parents, book clubs after school, author visits and our participation in World Book Day each year.

Our Reading Stars scheme gives the children an opportunity to extend their reading for pleasure at home with a chosen adult or sibling. Star badges are used as incentives for children to become readers; which children wear with pride around the school.

### Writing

At Park Gate Primary, we are authors!

The right choice of words written in the best way can make someone laugh, cry, wonder or even tremble. Our intention is for the children to appreciate the power of words and to learn how to manipulate them to reach their audience in the most effective way.



Here at Park Gate, the journey from first forming letters into simple words, to writing extended pieces that really have an impact on anyone reading it, is an exciting one. In order to motivate and develop the best writers, we use well-chosen texts, films and authors; thrilling, engaging, purposeful projects; drama and spaces beyond the classroom; intriguing objects and situations as well as writing for real purposes.

Throughout the school, children are taught Kinetic handwriting, giving them the strength and pencil grip to enable them to be writers.

Children lead the way with writing in Early Years. Motivated and stimulated by role play areas and unique experiences, the children decide what they want to write. From a postcard written by the Snail to the Whale or a 'Missing' poster about the lost Stickman, Year R children use their phonics skills to write for a real purpose. As a result of such genuine, exciting, positive writing challenges, real enthusiastic authors are born.

Our intention in Year 1 is for the children to continue to enjoy writing for a real purpose. Either challenged by a teacher or using their COOL (choosing our own learning) time to write, the children further develop their writing skills. Writing to answer the question 'Where is the Gingerbread Man hiding?' or writing their own version of the 3 Little Pigs, the children are encouraged to be independent and use word cards to support spelling and extend their vocabulary choices.

Children in Key Stage 1 start to think about the parts of the writing process, so this can be further built upon in key stage 2. They are taught to consider the importance of purpose, form, viewpoint and audience when they are writing. The purpose of their writing may be to persuade, inform, entertain or discuss. A letter, an advertisement or possibly a leaflet might be the form to best suit the purpose.

In Year 2, the writing expectations are further raised and more complex grammar and spelling is taught to help the children make the most of their language choices. Armed with a bigger repertoire of authorial strategies, children can be seen writing a diary or an amazing adventure story with an exhilarating sea theme.

The writing buzz in key Stage 2 continues. Engaging projects such as 'Lost in Time' in Year 3 or 'Operation Ouch' in Year 4, give the pupils subject specific language enabling them to write at length. Rich texts and interesting authors also drive the writing, with children able to analyse real stories and poetry; using these ideas and the style of others as a springboard to their own writing.

Whatever the writing, children are encouraged to be aspirational in their vocabulary choices and the authorial techniques that they use. At Park Gate it is our intention to give the children the right experiences and opportunities to be lifelong authors and to take with them through life the power of words!

**The Subject Leaders for English are Miss Flood and Mrs Cahill.**