



English Curriculum Intent & Implementation

Intent

At Claycots, we recognise the importance of reading and writing as key life skills and are dedicated to ensuring every child is equipped with the skills need to: access the curriculum, make personal choices about the books they read and communicate effectively to a wide range of audiences. We teach all aspects of the English National Curriculum with the overarching aim to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written language, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. At Claycots, reading is central to the curriculum. It is a source of pleasure and enrichment, but also a primary means of obtaining information and building many key skills such as retelling information.

Central to our intent for English at Claycots is ensuring that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate

Implementation

Phonics:

At Claycots, we teach the ALS Phonics programme which follows comprehensive lesson plans that teach children to hear, read, write and apply phonemes in reading and writing. We use a quality first approach to daily teaching of phonics through a whole class teaching input. All Phonics teaching is systematic, engaging, lively and interactive. Where pupils are identified as needing extra support (including in KS2), targeted intervention programs (including sight words) are delivered by fully trained members of staff. In Nursey phonics is taught daily using a group approach. Throughout KS1, pupils are given home reading books which closely match their decoding & comprehension abilities to allow them to further practise these skills.

Reading:

At Claycots, both our English and wider curriculum topics are centred around high quality texts which ensure that throughout the school children are exposed to a wide range of authors and genres which help to nurture children's love of reading. Children are given many opportunities during the school day to develop their reading as well as the explicit teaching of reading skills through guided and shared reading.

In class, children are exposed a range of texts through English lessons and their other subjects. Throughout the week, children are taught as a whole class through shared reading where teachers explicitly model the skills of proficient readers. When pupils are looking at texts in lessons teachers will deploy a shared reading strategy and explicitly model the skills of proficient readers. From Reception to Year 6, reading strategies including: decoding, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension are explicitly taught during these sessions whilst nursery focus on demonstrating



concepts of print. Through daily guided reading, all pupils are then given a chance to independently apply these skills to texts that closely match to their comprehension and decoding abilities. As part of guided reading, all pupils read with a teacher at least once a week.

Across the school we use Oxford Reading Tree, Pearson's Bug Club and Collins Big Cat reading schemes to support children in applying their phonics and reading skills.

As a school we prioritise additional opportunities to celebrate reading including the celebration of World Book Day, lunchtime library clubs, numerous author visits and workshops and local library trips. As a school we have large and well-stocked libraries which we regularly update with the newest publications.

Writing:

At Claycots, children are immersed in Talk for Writing from Nursery to Year 6. Its three phases (Imitation, Innovation and Independent Application) mean that children are explicitly taught how to compose a variety of fiction & non-fiction texts. All writing units use high quality texts as a stimulus which pupils internalise through the imitation stage. To support children in moving towards independent writing, teachers use shared and modelled writing; showing children their thought process by thinking out loud and involving them in the composition by taking suggestions. Children are taught how to structure a piece of work, ensuring the key features that will help them to make progress have been included. There are regular opportunities for children's writing and ideas to be shared, displayed, published and celebrated.

Grammar is taught explicitly through Talk for Writing units, as research shows that knowledge is best internalised when taught within a familiar context. Additionally, we use the no-nonsense spelling scheme to support the teaching of spelling. We recognise the importance of handwriting and this is explicitly taught throughout the school.