

English (Literacy)

Through English activities, pupils at Oughtibridge Primary School develop ways of expressing themselves and communicating effectively with others. English skills, encompassing Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Speaking and Listening, are taught daily in Literacy lessons. Daily phonics sessions are also delivered in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and, where necessary, in Key Stage 2.

Writing

Writing is a key priority at Oughtibridge Primary School. Pupils are encouraged to develop a love for writing; to help them do this teachers are often found 'bringing writing to life' for the pupils. Children are motivated to write with enthusiasm and for a purpose: through links with the class topic; using educational visits, themed days or weeks (when children often dress up in character); by using the outdoor environment and visits from published authors. Several times a year teachers and teaching assistants can be found around the school grounds dressed as Viking invaders, Ancient Egyptian archaeologists, scientific explorers or dragon experts. This makes outdoor learning meaningful and purposeful. Children have the opportunity to write a wide genre of text types and are encouraged to plan, draft, re-draft



and 'publish' their writing.

Opportunities for writing are also planned through other subjects, giving pupils the chance to practise writing skills across the curriculum.



Reading

Pupils are surrounded by books, whether fiction for enjoyment or non-fiction topic books for research. These are usually found in the library. All KS2 children have access to the school library and can visit this every week. In Foundation Stage and KS1, children participate in a daily phonics sessions, individual reading sessions and group reading sessions. In KS2, pupils participate in a weekly Reading Comprehension lesson, group reading sessions, individual reading sessions and, where necessary, phonics sessions. Pupils in KS2 are allowed time to read individually and change their books independently when necessary during the school week.



All classrooms have a 'Reading Rich' area, often a story tent or reading corner decorated with cushions and sparkling lights to encourage children to stay in these areas and read. Each summer, the pupils participate in a 'reading project', where children and teachers

have to capture themselves reading in a variety of places! A display of these exciting photos can then be found in the classrooms.

At Oughtibridge Primary School, the children are fortunate to have their own 'Oughti Reading Family'. The family consists of eight members (including the adopted Ophelia the cat), who help the children develop different reading skills, which in turn aid them to develop their reading. The characters can be spotted throughout school, not only in reading sessions, but in library areas, the halls, the classrooms and around the playground.



This year, the children had the opportunity to participate in 'Storytelling Week'. The children spent time during the week practising different ways to tell a story. On the Friday, the children and teachers dressed up as their favourite story character and enjoyed a 'Storytelling Safari' day. The children visited a variety of storybook settings and enjoyed listening to the stories told by the characters themselves! The week also coincided with World Book Day when a Book Fair came to School, providing an opportunity for the children to



purchase high quality books.

Each class also has its own class reading book, which is read by the teacher or pupils, and is a chance for classes to share a story throughout the week. Pupils also have the opportunity to read to other pupils: younger and older pupils have the chance to 'link up' in their class and share reading across the school.

Speaking and Listening

In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, daily speaking and listening activities are matched to the children's developing phonics abilities.

In KS1 and KS2, children work with talk partners, as often talking through ideas helps before expressing them in writing. There are opportunities for class debates and performance poetry. Every child is given the chance to be part of a Christmas or end of year drama production.



We are an ESCAL school (Every Sheffield Child Articulate and Literate) having passed Communication Friendly School Audit assessment with flying colours!

Pupils have spoken at Headteacher conferences and celebrations of achievements. They often use the ESCAL 'soapbox' when presenting an argument, reciting a poem they have learned, or taking part in the class's 'Just a minute', when they choose a topic to speak about for a minute.



Speaking and Listening posters appear in every classroom with the year group's expectations clearly visible. Children have the opportunity to discuss opinions and ideas through the 'Starters for Thinking' and P4C.

This year, the children had the opportunity to participate in 'A Rhyme Through Time' poetry week, which coincided with National Poetry Day. In classes, children learnt a poem off by heart and then put movements, actions and dance alongside the words. The children practised the pieces and then performed in front of the whole school to celebrate and share their achievements.

