



Teaching English at Belswains Primary School

Intent

At Belswains Primary School, we believe English is at the core of many curriculum areas. Our teachers know that developing pupils' spoken language, reading, writing and vocabulary is essential to them making progress in all curriculum areas. At Belswains Primary School, we aim to inspire children to adopt a life-long love of writing and reading. We encourage children to write using a wide variety of genres, both fiction, non-fiction and poetry in order to develop knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live. By the end of their time at Belswains Primary School, we aim for all children, regardless of their background, to be confident speakers, writers and readers, in all areas of the curriculum, in preparation for their forthcoming secondary education.

Pitch and expectations

At Belswains Primary School, from Key Stage 1, English is taught over 5 days. We follow the Ready, Steady, Write planning which enables the children to meet the requirements of The National Curriculum. Teachers make adaptations to suit the needs and development of their classes and individual pupils. Each year group has a set of 6 units per year, which outlines their suggested journey through the resources. The program provides lessons that are sequenced and progressive in order to enable the children to focus on key writing skills for the end of year expectations. These units are based on engaging texts that allow the children opportunities to develop their skills in reading, writing and spoken language. There is a clear sequence of lessons for each unit of work which follows the pattern of immerse, analyse, plan and write. In EYFS, this sequence has been adapted to jump in, look and plan and write. Example texts are provided for each unit of work in order to demonstrate high quality outcomes for the end of the unit of work. Each unit lasts for 6 weeks with there being two main writing outcomes for each (one in the case of EYFS). Ready, Steady, Write plans maybe annotated and adapted by the class teacher in order to meet the needs of their cohort of children. Each teacher has been given the access code. All plans and resources are accessible through the Ready, Steady Write online platform. All lessons have stretch and challenge for all pupils. Grammar is taught through these units in a daily sentence accuracy task but extra lessons are planned if a concept needs to be taught explicitly.

Presentation

Teachers teach pupils to follow the agreed presentation policy for English. Pupil's take pride in their books. Teachers model expectations in their teaching and marking. A copy of the presentation guide is stuck on the inside of each child's English book.

Pupils work in English books, on the rare occasion that sheets are required, they are trimmed and glued in straight and neatly.

Handwriting is taught through the RWI program and once the children have completed this program, it is taught in discrete weekly sessions using the Nelson Handwriting online scheme.

Formative Feedback



In Year 5 and 6, each child has an individual writing target. This is written on an index card and kept in an envelope that has been stuck to the back page of the child's English book. Each time the teacher sees evidence that the child has met this target, a date is written next to the target. Once the child has three separate dates next to their target, this target is marked as achieved (with a tick) and the child is given a new target. Children should be encouraged to use target cards for all writing activities including when children are required to complete a piece of cross-curricular writing.

From Key Stage 1, all children have access to purple polishing pens. Children should be encouraged to use a purple polishing pen to edit their work before handing it in to their teacher. Once their work has been marked, pupils should use a green pen to respond to any codes or next steps indicated by their teacher (see the Marking and Feedback policy for more information).

Vocabulary

Displayed in each classroom, is a word of the week template. Each week, each class will choose a "word of the week". This is a high quality piece of vocabulary that is chosen by the children and guided by the teacher. The children are encouraged to use this word in their writing and receive a house point if they have used the word in the correct context. Once the word has been displayed on the "word of the week" template for that week, it is then written onto a piece of card and displayed in the classroom thus providing a bank of high quality words that the children can continue to use in their writing. Teachers are encouraged to display other pieces of high-level vocabulary that are discovered during English and Reading sessions using the English working wall. Children are continuously encouraged to "magpie" good vocabulary and writing examples from the texts that they are reading.

Spelling

Once children have completed the RWI program (see How we Teach Early Reading at Belswains for information on this), they follow the No nonsense Spellings for Year 2. Throughout Key Stage 2, each group follows the No nonsense Spelling program.