

English

At Tregoze Primary School, English is a core subject which is taught daily. We understand and value the importance of reading, writing, grammar, and communication, and use it to prepare our children to become lifelong and independent learners. We use a mastery approach to ensure that ALL children master and secure their learning and knowledge before moving on.

Reading

Throughout Tregoze Primary School, we strive to create a culture for reading where we harness a love of reading and a thirst for knowledge and creativity. We firmly believe that promoting a love of books is vital for continued progress as we believe English contributes to both school and life successes.

At Tregoze Primary School, we teach phonics through the Department of Education-recommended "Letters and Sounds" programme. To develop and enhance reading, we use the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme and also Project X Books.

To ensure that we enhance a love for reading in our school, we will ensure that:

- All children have access to quality, age- and phonic level-appropriate books in school.
- All children have reading records and access to appropriate books to take home and share with family and friends.
- Classrooms are well stocked with age- and level-appropriate books in inviting reading corners.
- Where appropriate, children will be exploring ICT to support their reading.
- New books and reading materials are sourced and children are invited to share books they have enjoyed and recommendations for future reading.
- Reading passport challenges are run throughout the school to encourage further reading at home.
- Paired reading with adults and older peers, including volunteer parent readers, is used to support fluency and expression.
- World Book Day is celebrated and shared, as well as competitions and challenges being run to encourage fun and a love of reading.
- Support material to develop comprehension is also available for parents.

Writing

We encourage children to use their writing in almost all other subjects of the curriculum. We know that our children learn best when they are engaged, so we link our writing to our topic or to a book, such as Goodnight Mr Tom and Varjak Paw. These high-quality texts provide our pupils with the opportunity to improve their writing and reading by gaining an in-depth sense of the book, which subsequently builds on their knowledge and vocabulary and gives them a sense of purpose.

In reception, our children will learn how to sound out letters and how to form them correctly. They will be taught through phonics to write words which match their spoken

sounds. By the end of the year, they will be expected to write simple sentences that can be read by themselves and others.

In year 1, our children continue to develop their reading and writing skills through extending their knowledge of phonics. By the end of key stage 1, they will be able to spell words containing the 40 phonemes which they have learned as well as spelling a wide range of common and high-frequency words, which have to be learned by sight. In key stage 1, there is a big focus on planning sentences and orally rehearsing them before writing, and then on editing to correct any errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar. A variety of types of punctuation are introduced at KS1, including capital letters, full stops, commas, exclamation marks, question marks, and apostrophes.

Throughout key stage 2, phonics is still taught both whole class and as an intervention in years 5 and 6. However, spelling rules are also taught alongside this to support children in their growing understanding of how to spell accurately. We teach spelling using the programme 'read, spell inc' which is a fast-paced, interactive spelling programme. It is both a rigorous and a fun way to help our children to learn and uses a wide range of different spelling strategies.

As the children move through KS2, they continue to learn how to organise their writing using paragraphs and subheadings. In narrative writing, children learn to use settings, characters, and plots to engage the reader. A large part of the curriculum is spent learning how to edit and revise their writing, and through our marking in the moment we teach our children to do this effectively.

Grammar

The new 2014 national curriculum places great emphasis on grammar and punctuation. At our school, grammar is taught as a thread within all writing lessons. Our grammar focus is introduced at the start of the lesson, and there is then an opportunity for them to use and apply this during their independent work.

Each year group follows a grammar overview that starts at understanding basic terminology, including nouns and verbs, and continues through applying and using more complex grammar forms, including passive and active voice.

Speaking and Listening

Throughout their time at school, all children will be expected to orally rehearse what they plan to write, often through pairs or group discussions, before putting pen to paper. This is why children are encouraged to speak in sentences and give detail through their speech.

Handwriting

At Tregoze Primary School, children initially learn how to make all the correct letter shapes using a pre-cursive style. As they move into year 1, they begin to learn how to join letters fluently and develop a neat, cursive handwriting style. We use 'Letter Join', a fun and interactive handwriting programme that uses a variety of different activities. It can also be accessed and used from home using the website www.letterjoin.co.uk

Phonics

At Tregoze Primary School, we use Letters and Sounds, which is a systematic, synthetic phonics programme published by the Department of Education. The children's learning is enhanced using the 'Jolly Phonics' resources which teach the children the actions, pictorial prompts, letter formation, and the correct pronunciation for each phoneme (the smallest unit of sound in speech). There are six overlapping phases which the children work through, usually starting in the pre-school setting. In the reception class, children work within phases 1 to 4 before progressing to phase 5 in year 1 and phase 6 in year 2. Some intervention groups in key stage 2 also focus upon key parts of Letters and Sounds. The programme enables children to see the relationship between reading and spelling, meaning they learn to blend and segment words successfully.

During our reception induction process, parents are invited in for a phonics and reading meeting where they undertake phonics-based activities and are taught the strategies to aid their child's reading and writing.

Y1 Phonics Screening

The national phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to all year 1 pupils. It is a short, statutory assessment to confirm whether individual pupils have learned phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It aims to identify the children who need extra help so that they can be given support by the school to improve their reading skills.

At Tregoze Primary, we already assess children and provide early intervention support. However, the assessment is a statutory requirement. The test comprises a list of 40 real and pseudo (nonsense) words, which a child will read one-to-one with the class teacher. Half the words cover phonic skills which are usually covered in reception, and half the words are based on year 1 phonics skills. Results are communicated to parents through the school report at the end of the academic year.