

Literacy

Cooperative Learning

At St. Mary's we use a collaborative approach to the teaching of reading and writing. Our Literacy curriculum is based on the **Success for All** programme. Children work in learning teams and there is a strong emphasis on partner work and discussion. Children are expected to participate fully in all activities and the interactive speaking and listening activities ensure the children retain as much learning as possible.

For more information about the SFA programme:

www.successforall.org.uk

Foundation Stage

Children in the Nursery, follow a programme called **Curiosity Corner**. The focus of this programme is improving children's oral language and literacy as well as their cognitive, mathematical, social, personal, creative and physical development. This is achieved in a thematic, play based environment.

In Reception, children follow a programme called **Kinder Corner**. The children continue to develop their skills in the six key areas of learning through play, a spiral curriculum and more formal whole class sessions are introduced. The children also start a systematic phonics programme.

Key Stage One and Two

All children are grouped according to their ability in reading. The children are assessed every term and assigned to a new group if appropriate. This means that children have the potential to make exceptional progress in a relatively short space of time.

For children who are still learning **how** to read, they follow a synthetic phonics programme called **Roots**. The children have a 20 minute phonics session where they are taught a new sound every day. The children then move onto shared and guided reading of stories at an appropriate level as well as comprehending traditional children's stories. The final part of the session includes a writing activity where the children learn the foundations of writing.

The children leave a Roots group with the foundations of reading and writing. They then move into a **Wings** groups where we teach them how to improve and develop their skills. The children work in a five day cycle. They spend three days reading and understanding text and two days writing. We currently have six wings groups across the school all working at different levels.

Cross Curricular Writing

At St. Mary's we encourage the children to make links across all of their learning. On a Wednesday, the children return to their class bases for a cross curriculum writing session. This gives the children an opportunity to use their experiences across the curriculum to write in a variety of ways.