

## English Curriculum

Literacy is an essential skill which everyone needs to succeed in both education and the wider world. However at Downs Infant School we don't just want to teach children to read and write, we want to plant the seeds for a lifelong love of language and literature.

The first step for this is sharing fantastic, entertaining books that captivate our children's imaginations, resonate with their own experiences or simply represent a great source of fun and enjoyment. Experience of—and enthusiasm about—stories is the beginning of the process of internalising not just grammar and sentence structure but also a rich and varied vocabulary; as such it represents a vital factor in a child's language development.

By sharing great stories with their classes, teachers can also make overt links between reading and writing and encourage children to aspire to emulate the writing skills successful authors use.

We aim to place creativity at the centre of learning and development. We see creativity as a key factor in preparing young people to face the future with imagination, innovation and life skills. Creativity is not only linked to the arts but also humanities, sciences, maths and technology. We link our English Curriculum across all subjects e.g. singing songs about 'The Fire of London' that reinforce historical facts in a memorable way, writing a Samuel Pepys diary and designing and building houses that were burnt in the playground. At Downs Infant School we know that placing learning in a creative context dramatically increases the level of engagement within the classroom.