



Welcome to English.

Here at Catshill First School and Nursery we aim to provide and deliver an inspiring and engaging English curriculum through lessons, educational school visits and topics taught.

We follow the new National Curriculum for English where pupils are taught a number of skills that include speaking and listening, phonics, spelling, reading and writing.

Speaking and listening

Speaking and listening is a crucial part of our curriculum as we use these skills all the time every day. Pupils are encouraged to use 'good listening' so that they can respond to ideas and questions appropriately. We follow four rules for good speaking and listening behaviours and these are as follows:-

A good listener is...

1. Sitting quietly.
2. Sitting still.
3. Looking at the person who is talking.
4. Listening to all of the words.

By having good listening skills and behaviours we know that this enables our children to understand and develop other skills across the curriculum, especially with writing. As pupils grow confident with their speaking and listening we

move onto developing a good understanding of what words mean and how they change depending upon the context that they are written.

Through our values we actively encourage our pupils to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas.

If you have any concerns or questions please speak with your child's class teacher.

Phonics

We follow 'Letters and Sounds' as our main tool for teaching phonics where pupils are taught to pronounce, read and write spoken sounds correctly. Pupils are taught to use their knowledge of sounds to decode words when reading and this is primarily developed throughout Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. We use decodable home reading phonic books to support practising decoding and blending these sounds to read words accurately.

Every year in June the government requires schools to complete a phonics check with all Year One pupils to assess each child's phonic knowledge. All children in England are required to take this phonic check which has a mixture of real and pseudo (your child will know these words as 'alien words') words which each child will have to decode and then blend to read accurately. If a pupil does not meet the requirement for Year One in the phonic check then interventions are put in place and the child completes a further check towards the end of Year Two. Information about the phonic screening check can be found in the links below. We have also included some useful links that you may use to support your child at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUWv-Is>

(Pronunciation of letter sounds.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8>

(Pronunciation of letter sounds.)

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

(Some useful fun phonics games.)

<http://www.ictgames.com/forestPhonics/>

(Some useful fun phonics games.)

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/reading-at-home/phonics-made-easy/>

information)

(Phonics

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/at-school/assessment-at-primary-school/phonics-screening-check/>

about the phonic check.)

(Information

Spelling

In the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One, pupils use phonics as their main skill for spelling words as well as being taught how to spell those more trickier spellings known as common exception words. (See common exception word lists below for each year group.) Throughout all Key Stages children are taught spelling patterns, rules and meanings of words so that they can become lifelong confident spellers. In Key Stage Two pupils are taught the spelling curriculum through 'No-Nonsense Spelling,' this builds upon what they have been taught in Key Stage One. As spellings are taught, meanings of words are discussed as part of the process so that they are written in context. In order for our pupils to be confident spellers it is important that they can articulate sounds and say words correctly. If you have any questions or concerns regarding spelling please speak with your child's teacher. We have also included some useful links that you may use to support your child at home.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar> (Spelling and grammar games.)

For our Year Four children we have 'Spelling Shed' which can be accessed at home too.

We have included the common exception word lists for each year group.

www.spellingshed.com

Reading

At Catshill First School and Nursery WE LOVE READING! Reading is an important part of our everyday curriculum and we are fortunate enough to have strong links with our local library. We often visit the library or they visit us and we are proud to say that many of our children complete the library's 'Summer Reading Challenge' every year.

We teach reading through phonics in the early stages where pupils are encouraged to use knowledge of sounds to decode words and use phonic decodable books in school and as home readers to develop this reading skill. As pupils become more confident they begin to read 'Star Reader books' these are books that are for children who no longer need that phonic decodable text as a support. As children progress to confident independent readers we encourage them to look at developing their inference skills. This is where we ask questions about the text read. A suggestion of how to work on inference skills can be found in the link below. We use a range of reading materials to engage pupils and these are used in all areas of the curriculum. We have picture books, big books, novels, information books, poetry, leaflets, magazines and more. Our school library houses many reading materials for pupils to engage with.

Here are some useful links to help at home.

<http://www.thelinksprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/KS2-Reading-questions-for-parents-1.pdf> (Ideas for home reading.)

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/reading-at-home/> (Ideas for home reading and free books.)

Writing

We are passionate about writing and find as many opportunities to write as possible. Writing follows on from the skills taught in phonics; with the children's knowledge of stories and information texts supporting their content for writing. We begin writing within the Early Years Foundation Stage and develop skills throughout Key Stage One and Two. Children are given opportunities across all curriculum subjects to write, this includes writing stories, poems, information texts, science experiments, captions, leaflets and any other forms of writing that are exciting and engaging. We actively encourage our pupils to become confident and competent writers. Part of the writing curriculum involves pupils learning grammar rules so that they are able to write coherently. We have included a link below to support with some of the grammar terminology.

https://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/AssetsLibrary/SECTORS/PRIMARYASSETSNEW/Curriculum_Change/2014-Assets/Parent%20Advice/T832b-Jargon-Busters.pdf (This has useful information on about all aspects of school.)

If you have any questions regarding English then please speak to your class teacher and they will be happy to support.