

How can you help at home?

Every day is filled with opportunities to read, write, talk and listen! Here are some ways in which you can support your child when at home and 'out and about':

- Regular reading to your child at home allows children to hear expression and fluency.
- Hearing your child read at least three times a week will help them to practise the skills they have learned in school.
- Asking your child to write simple lists: Birthday, Christmas, shopping, holiday items
- Encourage your child to read in everyday situations so they are reading for meaning. Try reading road signs, shopping lists, emails, magazines, instructions for games or menus in restaurants.
- Retelling favourite stories
- Forming letters in paint, foam or sugar can help children practise handwriting patterns.



Feel free to contact the following person for any additional information:

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Stannington Infant School

English

Information Leaflet
for
Parents and Carers





What is English?

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you understand how English is taught at Stannington Infant School ('SIS').

English is taught through speaking and listening, reading and writing on a daily basis. By developing these skills children can express themselves and communicate with others through both the written and spoken word.

The English Curriculum

There are 4 main areas in the teaching of English:

1. Speaking and Listening - Children learn to speak clearly, thinking about the needs of their listeners. Children work in small groups and as a class, joining in discussions and making relevant points. They also learn how to listen carefully to what other people are saying, so that they can remember the main points. Children learn to use language in imaginative ways and express their ideas and feelings when working on drama activities
2. Children's interest and pleasure in reading is developed as they learn to read confidently and independently. Children focus on words and sentences and how they fit into whole texts. They work out the meaning of straightforward texts and say why they like them or do not like them.
3. Writing - Children start to enjoy writing and see the value of it. They learn to communicate meaning in narrative and non-fiction texts and spell and punctuate correctly.

How is English taught at Stannington Infant School?

These are some of the experiences children will enjoy during their time here.

Through our mastery approach to English children develop their narrative skills each term through a fiction text such as *The Gruffalo* or *Fantastic Mr Fox*. All children learn the story by retelling it both orally and through writing. As they become more familiar with the story the children produce a story map, which they will later use to help them write a story with innovations of their own. Children are also taught how to use and apply grammar, spelling and punctuation within their writing. Each term children will also focus on a non-fiction text as well as developing their poetry skills.

Each year group develop their speaking and listening skills through drama sessions, retelling stories, PSHE and P4C (Philosophy 4 Children) sessions where children learn to share their opinions about the world around them.

Reading at 'SIS' is delivered through Shared and Guided Reading. Shared Reading takes place twice a week where each class will focus on a text and use it to develop reading and comprehension skills. Guided Reading happens on a daily basis in small groups. During these sessions children develop specific skills related to their reading ability, while building upon their comprehension skills. Children take reading books home to practice the skills they are learning in school. The home reading level is the book band colour below the one they read in school. This is the child's independent level as they should be able to read most of the book with ease.

English at Stannington Infant School

Teaching will also be supported by visits that will take place throughout the year and visitors coming into school to speak and answer questions. These visits will allow the children to explore first-hand poets, story tellers and theatrical experiences that they can later use in their own work.

English in Foundation Stage

At 'SIS' English in F.S is taught as part of the specific area 'Communication and Language'. Children are taught how to read using levelled books in small groups during Guided Reading sessions. The children will learn to write and apply this skill to many different genres such as stories, labels, lists and simple instructions. A variety of Speaking and Listening opportunities are planned to enable children to share their views and develop these important skills.

Key Stage 1

As children move into Y1 and throughout Y2 we follow the learning objectives set out in the National Curriculum for teaching English. The skills children develop in Foundation Stage are built on so that children are reading more complex texts and working on reading with expression and improved levels of fluency. Children will now write longer, more complex texts such as stories, non-fiction booklets, poems and detailed sets of instructions. English is frequently linked to other areas in the curriculum such as PSHE, Art/Drama and P4C.