

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

Sissinghurst Primary School

English Newsletter

Welcome to our Autumn English Newsletter for 2023 –2024 academic year!

At Sissinghurst Primary school, our young learners are immersing themselves in the world of storytelling and the magic of words. Our English curriculum is designed to foster a love for reading, writing, and communication. It is designed to help students develop essential language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

English is taught across the school using good quality texts as a stimulus for learning. Each class has at least two whole-class text that is read, shared and enjoyed by all, every term. These texts are used to inspire various writing opportunities. We also use film units and real-life events to inspire and engage children's interest giving a real purpose to read, write and communicate.

Key Stage 2 children are taught weekly spelling patterns and rules (using Spelling Shed), building on the spelling patterns taught in the children's phonics lessons in KS1. Some of the rules are revision of the previous phase or year group in school.

Here's our brief English overview:

Reception (Ages 4-5):

- *In Reception, the focus is on developing early literacy skills.*
- *Introduction to letter recognition and phonics.*
- *Encouraging a love for storytelling and listening to stories.*
- *Developing pre-reading and pre-writing skills through play-based activities.*

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2 - Ages 5-7):

- *Building on phonics, students learn to read and write simple words and sentences.*
- *Introduction to basic grammar and punctuation.*
- *Reading comprehension skills are developed, including understanding the main idea of a text.*
- *Encouraging students to express their thoughts and ideas through writing and speaking.*

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6 - Ages 7-11):

- *Continued development of reading and writing skills.*
- *More complex texts and literature are introduced.*

- *Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are taught in greater depth.*
- *Students engage in creative writing, including stories, poetry, and non-fiction.*
- *Developing speaking and listening skills, including presenting and discussing ideas.*
- *Introduction to literary analysis and critical thinking skills.*

Our Top Tips for Reading

Lead by Example

Let your child see you reading for pleasure.

Children often emulate their parents' behaviours.

Encourage Questions: After reading, ask your child questions about the story, characters, and what they think will happen next. This promotes comprehension.

Make it Fun

Enjoy reading together. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures.

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you’ll go.”
-Dr. Seuss

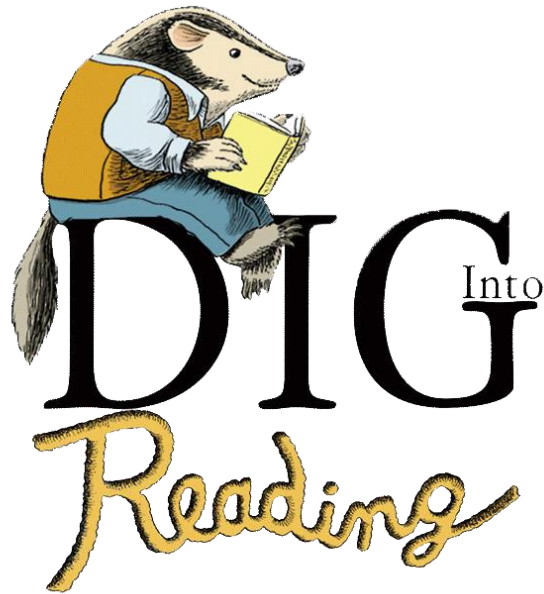
Make Space

Have a special time or
certain place when you read
together

Read everything out loud

Books, poems, newspapers, nursery rhymes,
magazine articles

Anything that is close to hand



1 - A BOOK IS A GARDEN CARRIED IN A POCKET

Chinese proverb

Be Patient

If your child is struggling with a word or sentence, resist the urge to jump in. Give them time to figure it out and offer help if needed.

Our School Librarians are Isadora and Daisy. This is what they say...

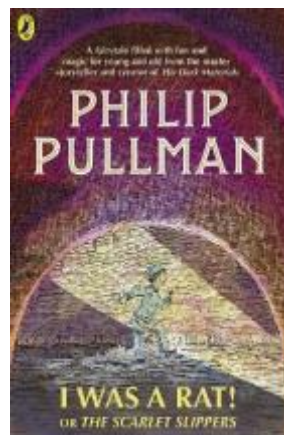
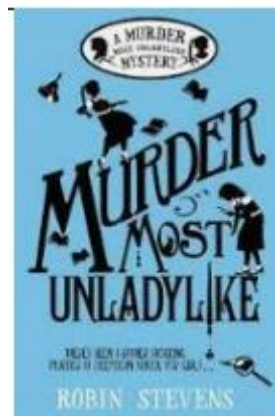
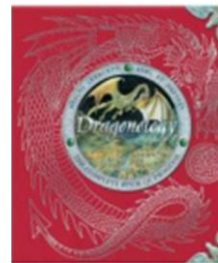
'We are so lucky to have such an amazing library and such a variety of books. Guess what? We're taking the joy of reading outside! Picture reading your favorite book under the open sky surrounded by nature. At break and lunch time come and read/share a book with us in the discovery hut. If you cannot choose a book to read, come and find us and we'll help. Remember to keep both the libraries tidy.'

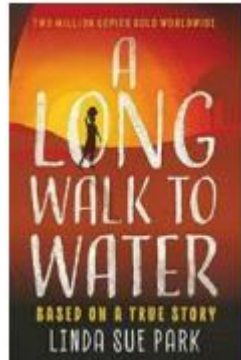


2 - WE READ TO KNOW, WE ARE NOT ALONE

William Nicholson

Our top reading for pleasure picks this term are:





<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+Groups&pid=45>

Our newly formed School Council have this to say: "As active members of the school council, we are thrilled about our exciting plans to make reading even more awesome in our school! Look out for this news in the next newsletter."

This is what the children say about reading!



3 - READING IS PASSPORT TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES

'I love getting lost in the story and reading for hours on end, time flies by. I love our reading corner. It's cosy and there are a lot of variety of books to choose from' Alice E - Leopards class

'Reading really opens my imagination and lets me picture things inside my head. Our reading area is peaceful' Idris J - Eagles class

'I love Harry Potter. I'm in my own little world. I like that there's lots of choice to read from' Grace T - Rhinos class

'I love seeing all the words and learning new ones. Our reading corner is calming and cosy' Leo A - Zebra class

'I love my book about funny fish' Juniper T - Giraffes class



If you have any suggestions for our next newsletter, which will be in February, please let me know. We will be running more workshops on phonics. Are there any other workshops you would like us to run?

Thank you for your continued support.

Sharmila Desai

English Lead