

English Curriculum

Reading

Our main focus at St John Bosco Catholic Primary School is to instil a love of reading into all our children. We encourage pupils to choose some of their own books in order to keep them engaged and we offer weekly trips to the local library as well as our own outdoor library which runs every lunch time. We begin teaching reading with a focus on phonics using the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme. There is a big focus in the Early Years on de-coding, before the children progress onto reading aloud with fluency, understanding the text. From year 1, key comprehension skills are taught weekly, covering all genres, both fiction and non-fiction. These help to develop the children's range and knowledge of vocabulary. In addition, each class studies two texts a year in detail through our 'book literacy' approach which links reading and writing. This enables all pupils to develop a thorough knowledge of specially chosen texts, helping the children consolidate their skills and understanding and enabling teachers to really challenge the pupils' thinking.

Writing

We deliver a broad and exciting curriculum, covering all aspects of writing so that our children become equipped with all the tools needed to become fluent and capable writers. From the early years, children are encouraged to hold a pencil and record their ideas. Class books are given from an early age to promote pride in their writing. Handwriting, spelling, punctuation and grammar are all specifically taught in addition to literacy lessons, which build up every week, leading to a best piece of 'Get Writing'. Writing is often linked to inspiring visits, class books we enjoy or cross-curricular topics the children are interested in, which brings out enthusiasm, enjoyment and ultimately the best quality work. The writing process followed includes shared and modelled writing, planning, drafting, editing, assessing and improving. Every half term, children have the opportunity to undertake mini writing challenges or projects in order to consolidate and extend their skills and use of vocabulary. There are half termly awards for Star Writers in each class and there is a strong emphasis on quality writing on display around the school.

Speaking and Listening

We actively support our children in developing the skills necessary to speak fluently in order to communicate their thoughts and emotions. Our nurturing approach to learning develops children's confidence so that they are able to get their views across. Through our exciting and engaging curriculum, we actively encourage our children to speak to adults and to each other. We employ a range of speaking and listening activities every lesson so that all children contribute and build their ideas in order to record them.