



**North Newton
Community Primary School**
“Together We Achieve”

Subject English

Curriculum Intent

At North Newton, we believe that a quality Literacy (English) curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and communication. It is our intent that writing across the curriculum will inspire, engage, and challenge all pupils, enabling them to develop the skills to effectively communicate their thoughts, ideas and emotions to others. We aim to build the pupils' stamina for writing, vocabulary knowledge and understanding of grammar, by creating a positive approach to an increasingly wide range of text types (including areas of fiction, non-fiction and poetry). Where possible we aim to provide children with a 'genuine' reason for writing e.g. competition entry, for a display or to be shared with others at a performance.

We recognise the importance of fostering a culture where pupils take pride in their writing; write clearly and accurately; and modify their structure and language choices to suit a variety of audiences, purposes and contexts.

To support pupils in moving towards independent writing at the age-related standard, we provide a wide range of writing stimuli, including the use of film and imagery; modelled, shared and guided writing; peer conferencing; and group discussion. These rich and varied learning opportunities support pupils in becoming confident and enthusiastic learners across all areas of the curriculum.

At North Newton we want writing to equip our pupils and to provide them with the opportunities to:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately, and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes, and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and clearly explain their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others, and participating in debate.

These aims are embedded across our literacy lessons and the wider curriculum. We will provide the means for children to develop a secure knowledgebase in Literacy, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. Rigorous

assessment and review, both internally and alongside other Schools, ensures that we are able to provide targeted support so that all children experience success in literacy; we believe that a secure basis in literacy skills is crucial to a high-quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

Curriculum Implementation

Early reading is supported through the Little Wandle phonics scheme. Training and development days ensure that staff are equipped to teach with the expertise and skills required to promote excellent progress, as well as a love of reading. In KS2, when children have completed our phonics programme, they develop deeper reading skills through guided reading and focussed comprehension sessions. Pupil librarians provide access to our 'highly commended' (Somerset Literacy Network) library, with an up-to-date selection of books to provide quality reading materials for all children to promote reading for enjoyment. Half-termly, class reading challenges ensure children gain maximum exposure to a wide range of genres and authors - both fiction and no-fiction. We also participate with the annual reading competitions, such as the Summer reading challenge.

Our writing curriculum is mapped alongside each class' topic focus and when planning literacy lessons, teachers make links to other areas of the curriculum to ensure that cross curricular links provide further context for learning. This mapping ensures children are exposed progressively to all types of writing. Lesson sequences begin with an elicitation task and build progressively towards an extended piece of writing, where children are encouraged to reflect on the text features they have included. A culture of recognising 'what next', helps children reflect and build on their writing. Handwriting is also taught within literacy lessons, and outcomes in KS2 are recorded in literacy books to promote a high level of pride and presentation across all written outcomes.

To enrich the literacy curriculum, we participate in a range of events hosted by Somerset Literacy Network, including the annual Poetry Slam. We also take many opportunities to enter competitions to give a real purpose for writing and for a small school have achieved great success. Examples of this include the Somerset Anne Frank Writing Creative Writing Awards, BBC Radio 2 500 words and the Historical Association - historical fiction National competition.

Where possible, we engage with local and National authors - for example P.G Bell (The Train To Impossible Places) ran a creative writing workshop and Sue Purkiss (Warrior King) came to read extracts from her book on location in Athelney, to support our Saxon/Viking History focus, resulting in huge engagement and positive parent feedback - especially in more reluctant boy writers. Writing in class is celebrated weekly in celebration assemblies also.

Assessment for Learning is embedded in literacy lessons and children are active in reviewing the successes in their work and identifying, with support from their teacher, target areas for development to ensure a continuous and individualised approach to improving their work.

Support for SEND

At North Newton all children receive high quality teaching. If a child struggles with English or is finding an area difficult then intervention will be put in place to ensure gaps in their learning are identified as soon as possible.

These supports could include

- 1:1 targeted reading
- Precision teaching
- Small group support
- Addition phonics sessions
- Over learning
- Technology - dictation app
- Accessible resources e.g. Spelling app on I pads

If a child continues to fall behind the Graduated Response will be followed using the Somerset Tool kit. Parents will be informed, and this will be monitored through the Assess, Plan, Do, Review process. (see our SEN section on our website)

Curriculum Impact

The organisation of the English curriculum, each year produces a community of enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their developing literacy knowledge and skills. Internal monitoring and moderation cycles, help support and confirm progress in writing, both internally and across the Compass group of schools. We take great pride in receiving feedback from local Secondary Schools regarding the competence and enthusiasm our children show in literacy having left North Newton.

We believe, our children are confident to take risks in their reading and writing, and love to discuss and share their ideas. Outcomes of work in both literacy and topic books evidence the high quality of work and the impact of varied and cross curricular writing opportunities. These enable children to write across a range of forms and adapt their writing successfully, considering the purpose.

Children achieve highly in the phonics screening check, at the end of the EYFS. Attainment at the end of KS2 is above the National Average as is the number of children achieving Greater Depth status in both writing and reading.