

English at Exwick Heights Primary School



Reading: At Exwick Heights Primary School, we love reading and value the many benefits that it provides. We believe it is key for academic success and it plays a big part across our Curriculum on a daily basis. We promote a reading culture that inspires children to love reading, makes them want to read and helps them to develop into ardent, avid readers and life-long learners.

All children, from Nursery to Year 6, visit our Library each week, either to choose a book or to work with our Librarian. Sessions can include input from adults about different authors, discussing and listening to stories or children can take out a book to take home and share with their family.

Children are able to use our Library for collaborative learning and developing independent research skills.

All year groups have Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) regular Drop Everything and Read session (DEAR). This might involve the children reading independently or being read to by the class teacher; it is a time for everyone to literally drop everything and enjoy reading, nothing else! Our children are highly motivated by our termly Read to Succeed competition, which recognises each child's efforts with reading, both inside of school and out.

Each classroom has a selection of books in their classroom to share and enjoy. This links with topics being studied across the curriculum to ensure children can apply their reading skills across the curriculum and further develop their understanding and knowledge.

Phonics

At Exwick Heights Primary School (EHPS), we believe that all our children can become fluent readers and writers. This is why we teach reading through *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonics in Nursery/Reception and follow the [Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised progression](#), which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school. Pupils at all phases are assessed to ensure that phonic knowledge is secure. Keep Up intervention is used for any pupils requiring phonic intervention.

As a result, all our children are able to tackle any unfamiliar words as they read. At **EHPS**, we also model the application of the alphabetic code through phonics in shared reading and writing, both inside and outside of the phonics lesson and across the curriculum. We have a strong focus on language development for our children because we know that speaking and listening are crucial skills for reading and writing in all subjects.

Because we believe teaching every child to read is so important, we have a Reading Leader who drives the early reading programme in our school. This person is highly skilled at teaching phonics and reading, and they monitor and support our reading team, so everyone teaches with fidelity to the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* programme.

Writing

At Exwick Heights Primary, we endeavour to create a love for writing. We want every child to leave the Academy with the skills of an excellent writer who:

- Has the ability to write with fluency and has an author's voice;
- Thinks about the impact they want their writing to have on the reader and knows how they will achieve this;
- Has a sophisticated bank of vocabulary and an excellent knowledge of writing techniques to extend details or description;
- Can structure and organise their writing to suit the genre they are writing and include a variety of sentence structures;
- Displays excellent transcription skills that ensure their writing is well presented, punctuated, spelled correctly and neatly;
- Re-reads, edits and improves their writing so every piece of writing they produce is to the best of their ability and better than the last.

Throughout their time at Exwick Heights Primary, children develop their writing skills by exploring a whole range of different genres. We expect the highest standards of writing every time a child writes in any subject, not just in English lessons, and place great importance on the planning, drafting, editing and rewriting process when writing at length.

Intent

At Exwick Heights, we believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's



love of reading, writing and discussion, underpinning writing across the curriculum. Our aim is to inspire an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and promote a habit of reading widely and often. Nurturing a culture where children take pride in their writing, write clearly and accurately and can adapt their language and

style for a range of contexts is of great importance to us. We want to inspire children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening and to use discussion to communicate and further their learning.

Impact

As a result, we have a community of enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their developing literacy knowledge and skills. They are confident to take risks in their reading and writing, and love to discuss and share their ideas.