



Dent Church of England Primary School Curriculum Overview

English

At Dent Primary School we believe that literacy and communication are key life skills. Through the Literacy curriculum, we will help children develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively through spoken and written language and equip them with the skills to become lifelong learners. We use aspects of 'The Power of Reading' to drive our curriculum; which engages teachers and children in the literacy curriculum through using high quality books and proven teaching approaches. We want children to enjoy and appreciate literature and its rich variety.

It is our aim at Dent to develop children's abilities to become competent, confident and effective communicators in English. We achieve this through the specific high-quality teaching of the key strands of: **Speaking and Listening, Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation, Spelling (including synthetic phonics) and Handwriting.**

Speaking and listening skills are considered vital, with plenty of opportunities for developing these skills such as partner talking, engaging in drama activities and role play. We encourage creativity, discussion, empathy with the ideas and opinions of others, positive listening and clarity of speech. These skills will equip children for lifelong learning and effective functioning in a diverse and challenging modern world.

Our teaching of **Reading** aims to inspire children to read for both pleasure and to be able to acquire knowledge through reading a variety of different media. We are committed to creating a genuine love of language and enjoyment of the process of reading. Our commitment to the use of the IT based "Accelerated Reading" programme is helping to motivate and inspire all levels of readers and helps to reinforce the high value placed on reading across the school.

Systematic Synthetic Phonics is taught daily in EYFS and Key Stage 1 and, where appropriate, continued support is offered into Key Stage 2. Staff use a wide variety of resources to keep motivation and engagement high, whilst encouraging increasing independence. Teaching across the curriculum reinforces the children's developing fluency with grapheme-phoneme correspondences and segmenting and blending strategies.

The teaching of **Spelling** is a high priority in all year groups, with time dedicated to explicit teaching and learning of new spelling patterns and rules, as well as time for self-checking and correcting writing. To keep motivation high in this important area of learning, a pupil-friendly IT resource pack called "Spellodrome" is used which combines regular independent practise with fun and games. Whilst grammar, spelling, punctuation and handwriting are taught in discrete sessions, we emphasise children assimilating and deepening these skills daily throughout the curriculum.

Writing is publicly celebrated across the whole school, with "Writer of the Week" prizes for every year group celebrated weekly and an annual Writer's Award presented at the end of every school year. Our creative, vibrant curriculum (and high quality first teaching) helps children to engage in the writing process. At all times, with excellent modelling and appropriate, personalised scaffolding of writing tasks, the children are encouraged to write to a high standard with growing autonomy and individuality.