

English Newsletter



Reading

Reading is at the heart of St Andrew's giving pupils the opportunity to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually, and enabling pupils to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. Children are exposed to a broad range of rich texts and have the opportunity to read every day: independently, as a class, in a group, with a reading 'buddy', 1:1 with an adult. Phonics is taught every day beginning in the Nursery and continues through to Key Stage Two for individual children who need it. Guided reading also takes place every day in every class and comprehension tasks and stand-alone lessons (Key Stage Two) help children understand the texts they are reading. Every class has a reading corner and at the end of each day the children listen to their teacher read a class novel, which they absolutely love!

Out of the classroom, our two libraries are packed full of up-to-date books and even have their own Bookflix interactive screens, which give the children reviews and recommendations. In the spring and summer (weather permitting!), an outdoor library gives the children the opportunity to relax with a good book at lunchtime and playtimes. All of these libraries are run by Year 6 prefects (with a little adult help here and there!) You might have spotted 'Book Swap' collection points around the school and there will be more information on these in the near future so please be on the lookout. We regularly have visits from authors and poets to enthuse the children and these kick-start competitions to bring out the children's own creativity.



A visit from Andy Tooze, the Poet from the Peaks.



Enjoying the outdoor library on a sunny day!



Children transfixed by author and illustrator Steve Smallman.



Year 6 Reading Buddies listening to Year 2 children at lunchtime.



A Book Swap 'house' where books can be exchanged.



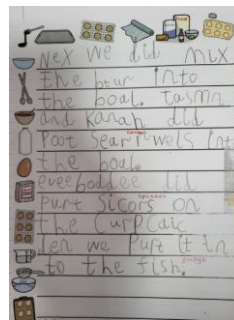
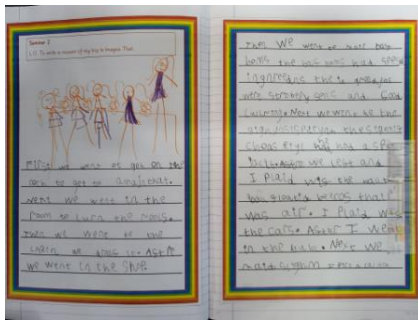
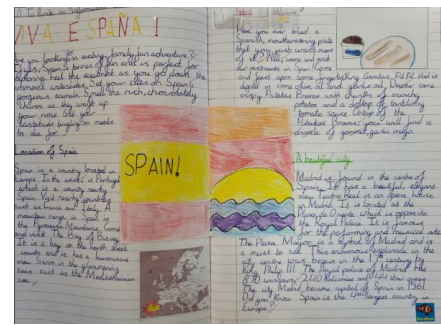
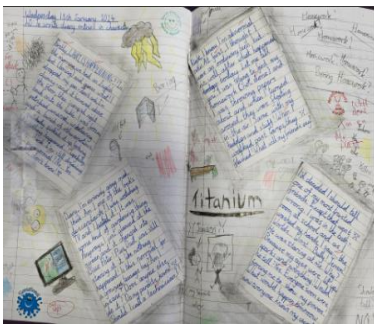
The children have ownership of both libraries (KS1 left, KS2 right), which are bursting with current titles.



Writing

As with Reading, children at St Andrew's write on a daily basis and for a range of purposes and audiences. The children follow a 'planning, drafting, editing, presenting' process to create the fantastic work you see in their books. Emergent writing gives the opportunities needed to build an understanding of the relationship between the spoken and written word and how through making marks, drawing and personal writing children ascribe meaning to text. In shared writing, teachers model how to write in a range of forms enabling the children to see 'what a good one looks like' before they write independently. Guided writing involves the teacher working with a targeted group in order to work on an area of development. A paragraph will be created together and the children can then use the same features in their next piece of work. Drawing on all of this learning, the children develop their ability to write independently.

Before writing longer pieces, children are immersed in a quality text, or they might watch a short video for stimulus, in order to help with their creativity and give them a purpose for writing. Children plan their writing first, before writing an initial draft which is then edited- proof reading for spelling and punctuation errors, improving vocabulary, adding features and rearranging sentences or reorganising paragraphs to improve the overall effectiveness of the piece. The results can be seen in the fantastic examples below.



English highlights from the 2024 Ofsted Report:

- Reading is central to the curriculum.
- Starting in Nursery, children develop a love of stories.
- Expertly trained staff deliver the phonics programme extremely well.
- EYFS and KS1 books are carefully matched to the sounds the children know.
- Pupils who find reading more difficult are given the extra support they need.
- As pupils progress through school, they become confident and fluent readers.
- Pupils develop a love of reading. Children spoke passionately about the authors and books that they like.
- Children understand that reading will support them in their wider learning.