

English at Carlton Colville

At Carlton Colville our children undertake a learning journey, beginning in the Early Years Foundation Stage and building on those early experiences. Language and communication underpin everything we do.

We believe that reading is the key that unlocks learning and we understand the vital connection between learning to read for pleasure and academic success. Children who read, really do succeed!

We teach reading through a rigorous phonics programme ['Letters and Sounds' together with some 'Jolly Phonics'] across the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. In Key Stage 2 we teach spelling and word level through the 'No Nonsense Spelling' and 'Big Spelling' schemes. All these schemes are compatible with the requirements of the new National Curriculum.

We use a range of reading books for our children, some of which are from published schemes and some are 'real' books. All of these have been book banded in order that the children can progress in their reading at an appropriate level. Shared reading is undertaken with the whole class but the teaching of reading mainly happens in 'guided' ability groups, when the children are ready for this.

Some children require more rigour, support and structure when learning to read. These children may have a daily one to one reading session with a Teaching Assistant or Learning Support Assistant alongside their regular guided sessions. They will follow a structured reading scheme - 'Project X Alien Adventures' in Key Stage 1 and 'Rapid Reading' in Key Stage 2. They may also be put onto an intervention scheme for a period of time [ARROW or Nessy] which supports the development of reading and spelling. All our staff have been trained in Reciprocal Reading which encourages independence in reading and the development of comprehension.

At Carlton Colville we believe that writing should be an integrated part of our thematic work so it is pertinent and for real purposes. Writing skills may be taught in isolation [eg. grammar, spelling and handwriting] but longer writing tasks will always be linked into our creative thematic curriculum. Great writers emerge from great readers so much of our wider curriculum is built around quality fiction and non-fiction.