

Phonics:

We begin our reading journey with daily phonics lessons in Reception following Phonics Bug Phases 2 to 4. This is then embedded across Key Stage One using Phases 4 and 5 within Year 1 and Phase 6 in Year 2. We believe that quality phonics teaching is at the heart of building successful readers. We always use the principles of Review, Teach, Practise and Apply within our Phonics sessions. We track phonics progress and regularly assess pupils on their phonic knowledge and skills. We support our pupils in making the links between their Phonics sessions and their everyday reading. Within Reception and KS1 each class spends 10 minutes a day applying their Phonics learning from that day to reading and discussing a whole class book.

What English looks like at Pinvin First CE School?



Handwriting

On entry in Reception pupils learn to hold a pencil correctly and to follow the correct movements for forming lowercase letters. From Year One onwards children learn to use continuous cursive handwriting. All year groups start the day with handwriting practice which is modelled by the Class Teacher. Once pupils are able to write at length using a neat, cursive script, they are awarded a pen licence.

Writing

We follow No-nonsense English to plan clear and progressive English units that use high quality, inspiring texts as the starting point for our pupil's writing journeys. Our children become very familiar with the example texts through oral re-tells and text mapping as well as exploring new vocabulary and authorial technique. We use our key texts to teach contextualised SPAG and guide our pupils through a process of shared writing so that they become confident before applying their writing skills to their own independent writing. We are proud of the writing that we create at Pinvin and we showcase our pupil's writing talents around school. We understand that we can use writing to meet a number of outcomes and provide our pupils with a range of audiences and purposes for their writing. Children at Pinvin love to write every day and express themselves in this way.

Reading

At Pinvin First School we aim to create enthusiastic, fluent readers as well as instilling a love of reading within all of our pupils. We use whole class reading sessions for all children to access and discuss high-quality, engaging books that provide appropriate stimulus and challenge for each year group. From their entry in Reception, children are taught the initial skills of applying their phonic knowledge to reading new words as well as discussing the characters and setting and making simple predictions. We build on this within Years 1 to 4 by developing the key VIPERS reading skills of Vocabulary, Inference, Predicting, Explaining and Summarising. Each child has an individual colour-banded reading book that is closely matched to their current level of phonic knowledge. We actively promote reading at home through weekly class rewards for pupils who read regularly, holding parent reading drop-in sessions and providing pupils with Bug Club e-books to read at school and at home alongside their paper individual readers. We encourage reading for pleasure and ensure that our pupils have access to a wide range of un-banded free choice reading books as well as high quality texts that are matched to their individual reading level.

Spelling

Within Years One to Four we follow a spelling scheme which is based on the spelling patterns and statutory words for each Key Stage set out in the National Curriculum. We have weekly spelling tests every Monday in each class.

The Power of Spoken Word

At Pinvin we believe in developing pupil's speaking skills as this helps to spark a genuine belief in the power and value of creative self-expression and imaginative thinking. We believe that developing our pupil's oracy and vocabulary skills is the key to deeper learning.

Training

We believe that attending high quality English Training helps us to become better teachers and inspire our pupils. This year we have held a Reading Inset in school focused on whole class reading and developing VIPERS reading skills as well as Phonics Bug training for all teachers and teaching assistants.

Enrichment Opportunities

This school year, we have held an in-school pantomime by a local theatre company and each class has been visited by our local librarian. A group of pupils have visited the Hive library in Worcester. We have a whole school visit to the Hive planned for later in the year and Years 3 and 4 have taken part in a national writing competition.