



English at Great Easton Primary School



English is taught daily at Great Easton in discrete lessons and applied in other subjects. We use guided reading as a tool for teachers and support staff to read with a focus group to decode the text and have 'book talk' which develops understanding (comprehension). Children work independently and in small groups on a range of reading activities. In KS1 we aim to hear all children read individually at least once a week in addition to guided reading, in KS2, some children will be listened to individually by teachers and support staff in addition to guided reading.

In Reception and KS1 classes there is also a daily phonics lesson. We follow the phases of Letters and Sounds. Spellings are taught separately in discrete lessons in KS2 following the Rising Stars New Curriculum spelling lists.

Children Reception and KS1 are given a book to take home from a range of banded reading schemes including Pearson's Rigby Star, Collins Big Cat and Oxford Reading Tree. In KS2 children are encouraged to choose their own home-reading book from 'free-readers' section in the library but some early readers will read a banded book as it is more appropriate to their reading level. We use Reading Eggs as an online

comprehension tool- each child has a login to use at home or school and the site has a wide range of texts for children to enjoy.

We have adapted, after permission from Felsted Primary School, an idea called 'Reading Champions'. We have two reading superheroes: Paige Turner and Major Read who visit our school from Planet Thesaurus on a regular basis. They award reading certificates, bookmarks and books to great readers. They read short stories that the children have produced, they take the children to the Essex Mobile Library which visits us every two weeks (all children have a library card) and they also run visits to Dunmow Library for children who have really impressed teachers with their reading.

We are currently at the beginning of a two-year project for us to become a Talk for Writing School. This is an area initiative, where we close for INSET days and join with some other schools to be trained by Pie Corbett and his team. This is going to transform the way we teach writing and we will be organising our year group reading spines, and writing topics after the next stage of our training.

