

## How can you help at

Reading a book and chatting about it has a positive impact on your child's ability to:

- understand words and sentences
- use a wide range of vocabulary
- develop listening comprehension skills

Reading books your child has chosen to read for pleasure is one of the best things you can do to help them succeed at school.

A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success!

Every day is filled with opportunities to read, write, talk and listen! Here are some ways in which you can support your child when at home and when out and about:

- Regular reading to your child at home allows children to hear expression and fluency
- Hearing your child read at least **3 times a week** will help them to practise the skills they have learned in school
- Asking your child to write simple lists: birthday, Christmas, shopping, holiday items, menus
- Encourage your child to read in everyday situations so they are reading for meaning. Try reading road signs, shopping lists, emails, magazines, instructions for games or menus in restaurants
- Retelling favourite stories
- Forming letters in paint, foam or sugar can help children practise handwriting patterns



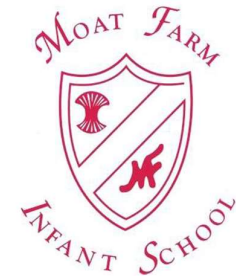
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# Moat Farm Infant School

## English

Information Leaflet  
for  
Parents and Carers





## What is English?

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you understand how English is taught at Moat Farm Infant School.

At Moat Farm Infant School, English is taught through speaking and listening, phonics, vocabulary building, reading and writing on a daily basis. By developing these skills children can express themselves and communicate with others through both the written and spoken word.

### The English Curriculum

There are 4 main areas in the teaching of English:

1. **Speaking and listening** - Children learn to speak clearly, thinking about the needs of their listeners. Children work in small groups and as a class, joining in discussions and making relevant points. They also learn how to listen carefully to what other people are saying, so that they can remember the main points. Children learn to use language in imaginative ways and express their ideas and feelings when working on drama activities.
2. **Reading** - Children's interests and pleasure in reading is developed as they learn to read confidently and independently. Children focus on words and sentences and how they fit into whole texts. They work out the meaning of straightforward texts and say why they like them or do not like them.
3. **Writing** - Children start to enjoy writing and see the value of it. They learn to communicate meaning in narrative and non-fiction texts and spell and punctuate correctly.
4. **SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Vocabulary** - Children have daily SPaG or phonics sessions. SPaG is also applied in English lessons. Vocabulary is taught through daily stories, Poem of the Day, Concept Cat, Word Aware and Word Workout sessions.

## How is English taught?

Children are taught different genres throughout each year group in a progressive manner. Wherever possible children are given real-life experiences to talk and write about.

Fiction and story writing are taught through 'Talk for Writing'. Children learn a text using 3 different stages:

1. **Imitation** - Getting to know the text really well through the use of story maps, actions, role play, character descriptions etc.
2. **Innovation** - Children will change part of the story as a class. This might be a setting, a character or an event. Children will then plan their story, the teacher will model writing parts of the story and the children will write the beginning, middle and end with support where necessary.
3. **Invention** - Children will use what has been taught to invent their own story. Children will, with guidance, edit their story, looking for spelling or grammar mistakes and improve their writing through better word choices.

Reading is taught through three adult-led reading practice sessions each week. Each reading practice session has a clear focus, so that the demands of the session do not overload the children's working memory. The reading practice sessions have been designed to focus on three key reading skills:

- decoding
- prosody: teaching children to read with understanding and expression
- comprehension: teaching children to understand the text.

The children read decodable books at a secure phonics level.

## English at Moat Farm Infant School

Teaching is supported throughout the year through events, by visitors coming into school to speak and to answer questions and through online experiences. These events allow the children to explore first-hand poets, authors and theatrical experiences that they can later use in their work.

### English in the Foundation Stage

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. English is taught as part of 'Communication and Language'. Children's language is built by practitioners commenting on what children are doing or echoing what they say with new vocabulary. Children are taught how to talk about and use books. They will learn to write by applying their phonics knowledge and segmenting words into sounds. They will apply this skill to different genres such as labels, lists, simple instructions and stories.

### Key Stage One

As children move into Y1 and through Y2 we follow the learning objectives set out in the National Curriculum for teaching English. The skills that children develop in the Foundation Stage are built upon so that children are reading more complex texts and working on reading with expression and improved levels of fluency. Children will now write longer, more complex texts such as stories, non-fiction booklets, poems and detailed sets of instructions. English is linked wherever possible to other curriculum areas such as RE, History and Science.