

## **English**

The successful achievement of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills are a focus for our teaching across the school.

### Speaking and listening

These skills underpin all reading and writing. At St Alphege we believe that by teaching effective communication whether in this way, or through signing, through art or through drama helps children gain confidence, independence and a clear understanding of their own learning steps. Talk is used to explore and celebrate difference and understanding of equal opportunities for every individual.

### Reading

As a school we have a clear focus on reading and we encourage the children to read every day at home as well as at school. (Our tab on Helping Your Child at Home will give you ideas.)

We use exciting rich stories, often with a familiar setting, to stimulate the children, and encourage skill development. The children love to read and we encourage them to read as much as possible and share their love of books with others in their own classes and across the school.

Vibrant reading corners in classes, bookshelves bursting with real books along corridors and a cosy library area all encourage a passion for books and reading. We believe that the best way to fulfil our reading ambitions for the children is through our own love of reading, and make time to read to the children each day.

The children are exposed to a wide range of text types including a variety of poetry, non-fiction such as instructions, information texts and recounts.

### Guided reading

This is a system of reading in a small group with an adult, and is carried out through a focused 'reading workshop' session on a daily basis to enable children to decode words, to make sense of texts and to imagine and unpick language to deepen understanding in many different ways.

### Writing

We see the ability to write effectively as giving each child a 'toolkit' which they can use to apply to different writing situations with confidence. The children in KS1 will learn about writing in a range of styles that are real and relevant to them; for example writing letters to local organisations to invite links with school. Writing in a creative and sophisticated style helps the children learn about playing with words, rhyming patterns and the use of ambitious vocabulary. With consistent high

expectations of all children, we teach an awareness of the importance of the presentation of work and considering sentence structure, punctuation and grammar.