

| Reading

At Chantry learning to read and reading for pleasure it is at the heart of everything we do. Developing children's enjoyment of reading helps to grow a range of skills that children will use and need in their future lives. Our literacy lessons use the Power of Reading, where the children study a high quality text for a term. They delve into the characters and events and exploring the books through active learning such as role play and debate, leading to high quality writing. By exploring books in this detail the children learn skills such as making inferences with evidence and skimming and scanning for information.

To help develop our children as readers and to ensure that they are reading and choosing books at an appropriate level, we use a programme called accelerated reader. This is where the children do an online Star Test, to work out accurately where their reading level is and the books they can choose. Once they have completed the test, they are provided with a ZPD range which gives them a range of numbers in which they can select books. This allows them to read at the right level but still be able to select their books. Once they have completed the book they are reading, they complete a quick quiz on a computer which assesses how well they have read the book. This also provides the children with a word count so they can see how many words they have read.

Although the children are provided with an opportunity to read at school, it is vital that they read at home. The expectation is that all children in KS1 read for at least 10 minutes 3x weekly and that KS2 children read for at least 20 minutes 3x weekly. Although the expectation is 3x weekly, the more days that the children read at home, the better it is for the children. Every time a child reads at home, the expectation is that their reading record book is signed. In years 1-4 this should be by a parent/carer and in 5 and 6, the children are expected to record their own reading.

To celebrate and encourage the reading at home that happens we also take part in Buster's Book club. This is where the children, on a Wednesday evening, are encouraged to record how many minutes they have read at home.

| Writing

At Chantry Community Academy, we aim to develop confident and able writers. We work with the Power of Reading programme to deliver high quality literacy lessons that help our children to develop their skills in writing over all the genres covered in the National Curriculum. Across the school, each year group focuses their literacy lessons around a text linked to other subject areas. By studying and exploring the text in a variety of exciting and creative ways, the children learn how different genres are created and use these skills to develop extended pieces of independent work; often across a range of curriculum subjects. The children are then taught (from year 1) to read, edit and improve their writing, learning to identify errors and areas where their sentences could be improved. As well as learning to develop the skills needed for writing extended pieces, our strive for excellence drives our high expectations of presentation, with children taught to write cursively aiming to earn a pen license.

Whilst exploring texts in detail and learning about different genres, the children are taught the grammar, punctuation and spelling expectations that are required for their year group. Our children are taught these skills in a variety of ways that allow the children to explore and apply grammar rules in their writing. For every piece of extended writing the children complete, they are taught the specific punctuation and grammar skills that are then applied to work they are completing. With spelling, alongside their weekly homework, the children are provided exclusive spelling lessons to help them to learn the spelling rules that are required to be learnt by the end of KS2.

Useful Websites:

CLPE: Power of Reading

<http://www.clpe.org.uk/powerofreading>

Renaissance

<http://www.renaissance.com/>

Twinkl

<http://www.twinkl.co.uk/>