The Nightingale Federation

'Let your light shine.'
Matthew 5:16

Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust

English

"Books are a uniquely portable magic." – Stephen King

Subject Vision and Values

At Thomas Bullock, a writer is confident and creative, by being able to express their ideas through a broad range of skills and knowledge. Writers at the Nightingale Federation 'Let their Light Shine' by having resilience and stamina to write for different purposes and different text types. Children are exposed to quality texts to support and inspire their writing.

Being a reader at the Nightingale Federation allows children to use their reading skills to explore different places and understand the wider world through the joy of reading. Children are encouraged to read a wide range of genres which they have access to through a well-resourced library and classroom reading corners.

The aims and objectives of English are in line with the National Curriculum and enables children to:

- communicate ideas clearly and coherently; written and verbally
- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the routine of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- develop a wide vocabulary and understanding of grammar for reading, writing and spoken language
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences

Intent:

English lessons are delivered as part of the curriculum offer. Objectives for lessons are underpinned by the National Curriculum. English lessons are well planned and structured to ensure that new skills are learnt and imparted through effectively teaching a sequence of lessons. Teachers model skills through shared reading and writing. Teachers have access to a large range of whole class texts and a well-resourced library offering good-quality texts to base work around. Children revisit text types in order to develop their understanding and improve their quality of writing.

Implementation:

Children have daily English lessons and where possible the topic is linked to other areas of the curriculum.
Phonics is taught daily following RWI, with Early Years beginning with Set 1 within our Nursery & reception classes and progressing through to set 3. As children complete the RWI programme usually within Year 2, they move onto RWI comprehension. Following this progressing into Read, Write Inc spelling sessions which continue in KS2. Each class has a welcoming reading area and teachers provide shared reading regularly to promote a love of reading.

Writing is taught through teaching sequences which are based around initial immersion of a quality text, with build-up and understanding of key features. We ensure that the teaching of writing is purposeful and shows clear progression for all children. We aim to ensure that each year group is teaching the appropriate grammar, punctuation and spelling objectives required for that age group. As well as teaching the objectives, teachers are able to embed the skills throughout the year in cross-curricular writing opportunities, such as in topic lessons.

Impact

As a result, we aim to have a school of enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy sharing their developing literacy knowledge and skills. The children are confident to take risks in their reading and writing, and love to discuss and share their ideas with others.
As an inclusive school, we recognise the need to adapt our approach to support children with Special Educational Needs as well as those who would benefit from further challenge. We recognise that in all classes there are children of widely ranging abilities and we strive to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by differentiating tasks to enable all to access them at the appropriate level.

Spiritual Development

Through writing across the Nightingale Federation, we enable spiritual development by creating awe- pieces of writing of our own. We teach children to express themselves through their writing, giving them ownership and showing them how to play with words and conventional rules.
Through reading across the Nightingale Federation, we enable spiritual development by responding to creating and awe-inspiring texts. We learn to reflect on what we read, offering our own inferences, reactions and opinions. We learn to empathise with characters and interpret their thoughts and actions.

Cultural Capital links to English

Through support from the Thomas Bullock Trust, FOSS and FOLS, many activities including theatre trips and theatre workshops in school receive funding support, allowing all pupils to have these experiences. Each classroom has a reading area to encourage the joy of reading with a wide range of books linked to each topic as well as classic and current fiction books. Our school parliament children will look at new releases and select books to regularly update our school library. Furthermore, the older children have opportunities to become library monitors.