

## English at Birchanger

English at Birchanger teaches a wide range of skills that can be used across all areas of the curriculum and in children's learning. Every class has a daily English lesson where the children learn the skills of reading, speaking and listening, spelling, comprehension, punctuation and grammar. In addition to this, children also have a daily Phonics or SPAG session, alongside Guided Reading.



### Reading:



Reading often and a variety of different texts is essential to develop a child's language skills as well as their fluency and comprehension. In class, we ensure children are exposed to a wide range of different genres and we encourage pupils to read regularly at home and ask parents to support them in ensuring that they do so.

We use a variety of books to support the teaching of reading but mainly use the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme and Big Cat books to support with the teaching of reading. We also follow the phases of Letters and Sounds to teach phonics.

We have recently updated all of our class reading books to ensure that texts are current and engaging for all year groups and abilities as well as redesigning our library area. Children have a reading scheme book and are welcome to borrow class and library texts to read at home for pleasure.



The "Reading Champion" challenge was introduced in September 2017 and gives children recognition for the hard work and

effort they put into reading at home. Children have been working hard to earn themselves gold, silver and bronze certificates that are shared in our celebration assembly with peers and family members on a Friday.

Our 'Reading Blast' challenge last term, also found pupils engaged in reading in the most unusual places! Check out our display in the library!



Every year, we celebrate reading, books and authors with 'Book Week'. We take visits to the library or Bishop Stortford College to listen and work alongside authors and poets. We also all dress up as our favourite book characters!! (Even the teachers too!!).

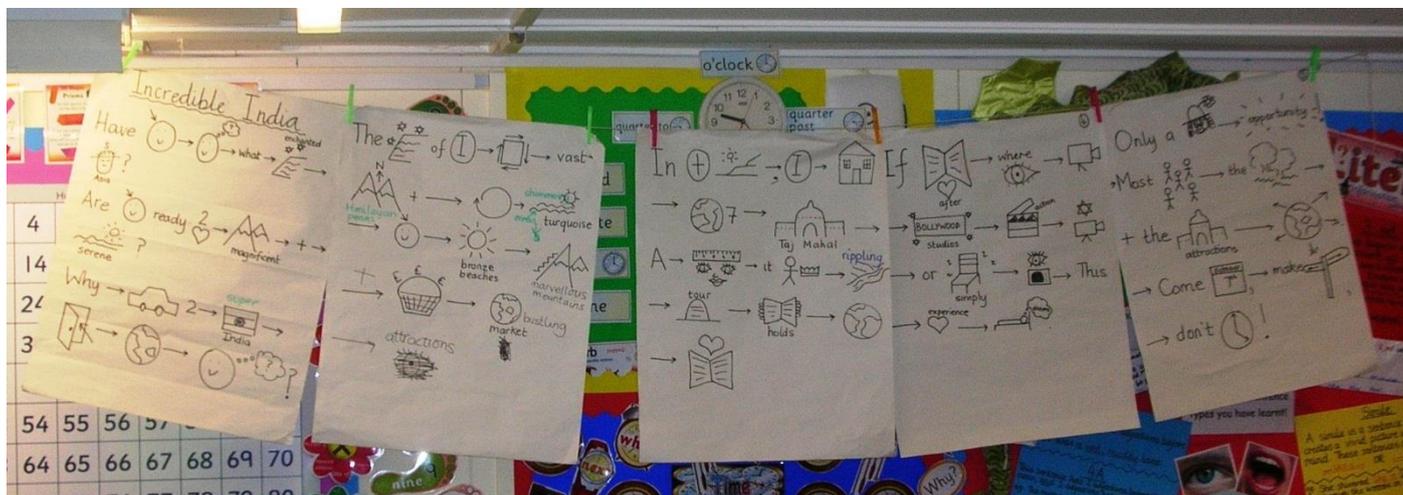
## Writing:

We encourage children to write for many different purposes including poems, stories, instructions, lists, letters etc. We have recently introduced 'Talk 4 writing' to support the teaching of writing. Children will go through 3 main stages to develop their independent writing.

**Imitation** - learning a text through verbally recalling a text using actions and story maps to support them.

**Innovation** - making changes to a familiar text that they have learned.

**Invention** - using the genre specifics to develop and create their own imagination version of this text type.



This allows children to work through stages of English such as Speaking and listening, planning, editing and working towards a final, finished piece. Children are proud and have a good understanding of what should be included within each text type. Children have exposure to familiar and traditional tales and work through in Key Stage 2 to well-known authors and some of our favourite, well known texts.

This year we are having a big focus on our handwriting and presentation in writing. We use the Pen Pals scheme to teach writing and look at letter formation, size and orientation.

### Penpals: Example Letter formation with joins

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz