

At Whytrig we hope to provide an atmosphere where children are encouraged to develop to the best of their ability as speakers, listeners, readers and writers. We hope as teachers to foster, refine and enrich the spoken and written language of the children in our care.

It is our aim to provide the children with interesting and varied opportunities to acquire the necessary skills in reading, writing and speaking and an awareness of the power of language, in preparation for the next phase in their education and their adult life.

We believe that children learn more effectively when they know what is expected of them and why; so we share our learning objectives with the children and decide on success criteria together so that everyone is aware of what they have to do to make their work successful. This helps the children to take responsibility for their own learning, develop a sense of self-criticism and set targets for their future development.

Competence in reading is one of the most vital skills and so the children's reading progress is monitored and reviewed throughout the year groups. Individual conferences take place between teacher and pupil, to review progress and set new targets. Advice is given from the teacher as to the best way to achieve these. All children are provided with a Reading Diary so parents can help monitor and develop the child's reading.

English is taught throughout the school, grouped according to ability in all year groups. This gives teachers an opportunity to further match their teaching to the need of pupils. Pupil groupings are reviewed regularly.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 take part in six Literacy lessons per week, with extra time given for personal reading, extended writing, drama and speaking and listening activities. Some of the successful approaches in the primary area of school are also used in Key Stage 3, where English is theme based and planned to ensure that the children take an active part in their learning. In Key Stage 3, from September 2017 children have five lessons per week.

In Year 5 your child will learn about:

- Reading and writing fiction and non-fiction including recounts, instructional texts, explanations and persuasive writing.
- Novels, stories, poems and plays by significant writers.
- Traditional stories and stories from different cultures.
- Using Literacy across the curriculum, particularly in the study of paintings.
- Improving spelling, grammar and punctuation in writing.
- Ways to improve speaking and listening.

In Year 6 your child will learn about:

- Classic fiction, poetry and drama.
- The novels of Michael Morpurgo.
- A range of genres including mystery, science fiction and fantasy.
- Autobiographies, biographies and diaries.
- Chronological writing and non-chronological reports.
- Argument writing - persuasive and discursive.
- Explanations and instructions.

- Ways to improve spelling, punctuation and grammar.

In Year 7 your child will learn about:

- Read fluently a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Identify and write about the social, cultural and historical contexts of novels.
- Write effectively in a range of forms, for various purposes and for different audiences.
- Improve sentence structure and punctuation and text organisation.
- Develop effective speaking and listening skills.

In Year 8 your child will learn about:

- Respond to reading and writing in an analytical way.
- Read fluently and independently, identifying the social, cultural and historical contexts of novels.
- Summarise a range of information from different sources.
- Write effectively in a range of forms, for various purposes and for different audiences.
- Adapt their talk to a range of situations.
- Use various literary devices to create particular effects.