Writing through the Early years at St Mary's

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).

In Nursery and Reception we teach writing through Phonics, Literacy and informal opportunities to write during child initiated learning.

Nursery

By the end of their time in Nursery, children will have had many opportunities to explore **Accuracy, Creativity and Style** through Phonics, modelling of letter formation by adults, reading high quality stories and non-fiction books and through informal opportunities to mark make.

Accuracy

Nursery children are introduced to grapheme- phoneme correspondence and shown how to form letters during Phonics and adult focus activities and through child initiated activities. They mark make in all areas of learning and learn to give meaning to the marks they make when drawing and painting. They explore general sound discrimination through instrumental sounds, body percussion and voice sounds. They explore rhythm and rhyme and alliteration through stories, games and rhymes. Oral blending and segmenting is practised in Phonics and during child initiated play.

Creativity

Nursery children explore **Creativity** through stories, story sacks and through role play, small world play and puppets.

Style

Nursery children explore **Style** through stories and rhymes, non-fiction books and instructions.

By the end of their time in nursery most children will:

- Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example, writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing 'm' for mummy
- Write some or all of their name
- Write some letters accurately

In Reception we build upon the children's experience of **Accuracy, Creativity and Style** through:

Accuracy

We further develop the children's **Accuracy** through our Little Wandle Phonics lessons, handwriting, writing activities and through informal writing opportunities. In Phonics, children learn the 44 grapheme-phoneme correspondences and learn how to form letters correctly through handwriting. They learn to blend and segment and are introduced to tricky words that they learn to read and write. Children practise writing letter shapes, simple words and tricky words and learn to write a sentence using their phonic knowledge during adult focus activities and through informal writing opportunities. The environment has opportunities to write in all areas of learning both inside and outside.

Creativity

We further explore **Creativity** by focussing on high quality stories, story sacks, puppets, role play and small world play and by writing imaginatively in response to a variety of stories and books. We explore the meaning of new words in stories and non-fiction texts and experiment with these during our imaginative play and in our writing.

Style

Reception children explore **Style** through stories and rhymes, non-fiction books and instructions and by writing opportunities both formal and informal.

- **Throughout their Reception year children learn to:**
- Form lower-case and capital letters correctly.
- Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s
- Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.
- Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense.

By the end of the Reception year, most children will be able to:

- Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
- Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.
- Write simple phrases and sentences that can be ready by others.