English Curriculum

English Overview and Rationale

Acorns

Our English curriculum aims to raise aspiration and close disadvantage gaps by promoting high standards of language and literacy for every child. Rooted in our values—**Together We Learn, Grow and Achieve**—we equip pupils with a strong command of both spoken and written language and nurture a love of literature through reading for pleasure. In our community, where many children have limited early language experiences, these skills are vital. They empower pupils to learn confidently, grow in knowledge and independence, and achieve the foundations needed to participate fully and equally in society.

2 YEAR OLD PROVISION

At Dunn Street Primary School we provide nursery children, aged 2–3, with rich and consistent opportunities to develop early language and pre-reading skills. We recognise that early language is a crucial foundation for all future learning, influencing communication, social development, and later reading success. Guided by our core principle '**Together we learn, grow and achieve**' we focus on fostering a love of stories, building strong listening skills, and supporting children's early understanding of language through daily exposure to books, rhymes, and meaningful interactions.

We create a warm, language-rich environment where children and adults explore sounds, words, and simple narratives together. Through shared story sessions, songs, conversations, and play-based experiences, we aim to strengthen vocabulary, communication, and early comprehension, helping children grow in confidence and curiosity.

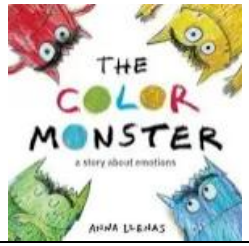
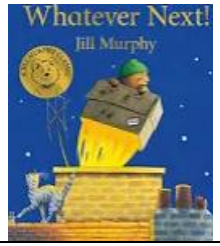
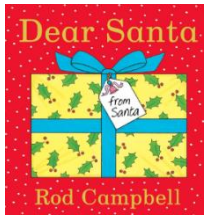
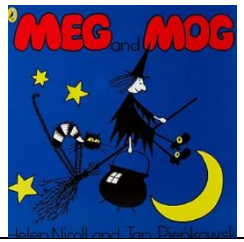
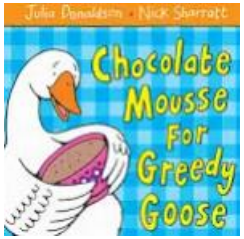
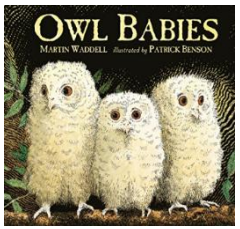
Inclusion is prioritised, as we recognise that some children may have limited access to books and language-focused experiences at home and we therefore emphasise repetition and nurturing interactions. By working together, we ensure every child experiences the power and importance of early language so they can learn, grow, and achieve, building a strong foundation for future reading and lifelong learning.

Each term, we carefully select a range of books that reflect both developmental stages and children's emerging interests, ensuring engagement and enjoyment in early reading. While we maintain a core set of high-quality stories, rhymes, and non-fiction texts that build vocabulary and comprehension skills, we also adapt our selections based on the children's curiosity, questions, and current fascinations. This flexible approach allows us to introduce new themes, cultural perspectives, and imaginative worlds while supporting children to make personal connections with the stories. By following children's interests alongside planned learning objectives, we create a reading programme that is both purposeful and motivating, encouraging a lifelong love of books and storytelling.

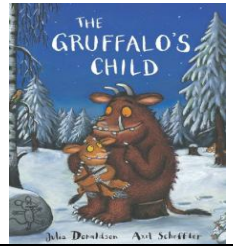
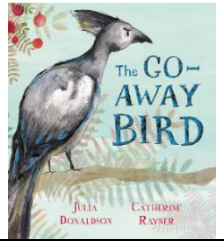
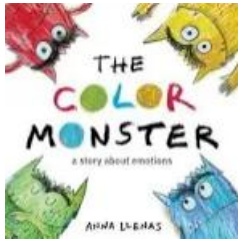
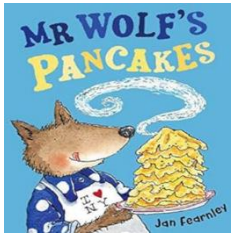
English Curriculum

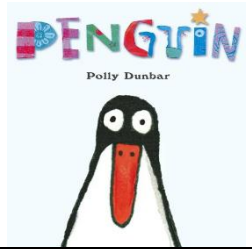
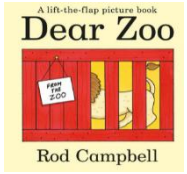
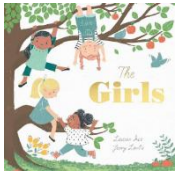
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AUTUMN 1		AUTUMN 2	
			
Rationale: This book helps children to identify and label their own emotions. It encourages co-regulation. We also look at colour identification in this book too.	This book opens up new vocabuary linked to space. It is a simple story that leads to many imaginative play opportunities. It also mirrors some parts of a child's daily routine, opening up discussion of what we do at home.	It is chosen to open up winter and christmas vocabulary opportunities and conversations. It encourages repetition as well as story retelling. The book has rhymes to notice and listen for.	This is a simple story with repetition and spportunities for high levels of interaction. When introducing this story we use props that we wrap for the children to open. This is great for visualisaion, the children often use the props to re-tell the story in independantly in their own time.
			
A simple story with very clear language that introduces the topic of halloween. The language	This lovely story has lots of repetition that supports story re-telling. It links to themes	A fabulous way to introduce poems and rhymes to younger children. It introduces new	Supports PSED helps us to thinkabout and explore feelings and expressing empathy. It also

used is simple but purposeful.	surrounding Halloween and encourages role play. The rhyming words help to develop listening skills.	vocabulary that links to nursery rhyme week.	explores fear, worry and joy. The book also reinforces the conceptof a parent / carer always coming back.

SPRING 1		SPRING 2	
			
This story has lots of repetition and rhymes that help children with listening skills. It has themes of feeling scared an	A beautiful rhyming story with repetative refrances for children to join in. it has colours to defing the characters. The children love	This book supports PSED. We have repeated this story to aid us explore emotions in more depth this term. We use more	A story linking to shrove Tuesday with new vocabulary. This vocabulary is then used throuought the nursery in our

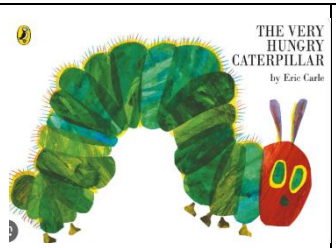
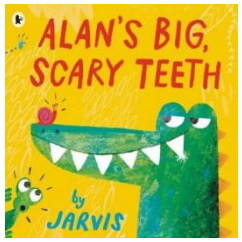
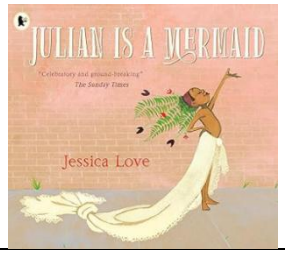
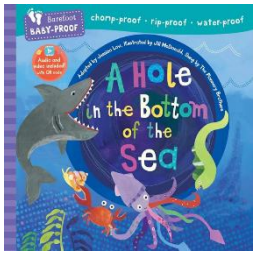
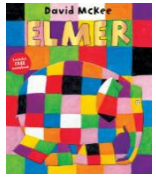
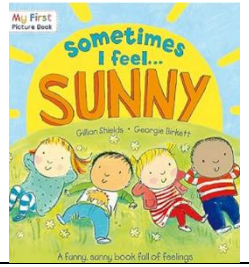
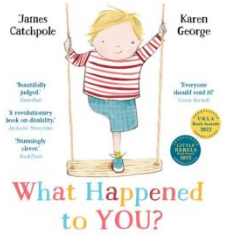
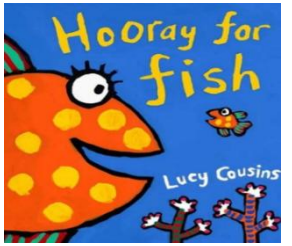
lonely. It has themes of winter and allows for new vocabulary to be built.	to repeat the key phrases from this book.	vocabulary to describe feelings, building on from "happu" and "sad" during the first read.	activities.
			
This story encourages high levels of engagement through repetative refrains. It is a simple story but with lots of new vocabulary. These children enjoy joining in the eith the repetitive phrases.	In this book we explore the topic of friendships. We open up new conversations about who we love and the special people in our lives.	A classic but simple story with lots of opportinities for language and engagement. This is then used by the childdren throuought the sessions during their independent learning time. Puppets and small world activities will support how we use the book.	A lovely rhyming story that helps develop listening skills as welll as encouraging positive friendships and relationships.

SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2

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This story links to our topic of new life and growing. It introduces new vocabulary, supports counting routine and ordering. This is a simple story introducing the topic of new life and changes.	A humerous story with themes of friendships and feelings. It introduces new vocabulary and opens up conversations around teeth and oral hygiene.	We have chosen this story to help children uderstand that everybody is different. It explores celebrations in other cultutres and encourages imaginative play.	A rhyming book that allows for repetition and retelling. It also introduces new vocabulary linking to sea life.
			
Elmer introduces themes of friendships and exploring how we are unique and celebrating differences and how everybody is unique.	This book helps with supporting PSED by encouraging both co and self regulation.	A great book for introducing and exploring individual differences and own abilities. It is a great conversation starter.	Hooray for fish is great for comparing colours, shape and patterns whichn is always beneficial for our children.

Together we learn, grow and achieve

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