

Waterthorpe NI School

At Waterthorpe Nursery Infant School we make the journey for life long learning by all pulling together to:

- Learn and achieve
- Keep safe and happy
- Live healthily and enjoy ourselves

What English looks like at Waterthorpe NI School

Mrs Appleby is the English leader.



Children in Year One and Year Two follow the National Curriculum which is taught through cross curricular themes wherever possible.

We hope this booklet shows you how children learn about English and some of the content that they cover during their time at Waterthorpe.

Key Content of English curriculum:

- Phonics
- Spelling
- Handwriting
- Speaking and listening
- Writing
- Reading



Phonics

All children have a daily phonics lesson. They are taught the 44 different sounds (**phonemes**) used in the English language and the ways to write these sounds (**graphemes**). Children will practise using these for reading and writing.



Spelling

All children are taught to spell words using the phonemes they know, this is called **segmenting** e.g. sh-ar-k. They are also taught that some words are **tricky words** that they have to remember e.g. 'said' not 'sed'. Children will be taught to use letter names to spell words out loud s-h-a-r-k.

Handwriting

All children will be taught a cursive script (**smiley writing**). They are taught to start each letter at bottom. They are taught to smile in and out of each letter. Children will be taught some letters are tall (**ascenders**) and some letters go below the line (**descenders**)

The image shows the cursive letters 'a', 'b', 'c', and 'g' written in a blue, flowing script. The 'a' and 'c' are tall letters, while the 'b' and 'g' have descenders that go below the baseline.

Speaking and Listening

Children's listening skills are very important and the ability to listen and speak confidently needs to be developed before children can successfully read and write. Children are taught how to listen e.g. give eye contact, respond appropriately, take turns in speaking. Children are taught to speak in full sentences and use appropriate vocabulary e.g. "I think the book was good because....."

Reading

All children will have a reading book to read at home and school. Children will read individually to an adult in school at least once a week. Children also read in groups (**Guided reading**) and as a whole class (**Shared reading**). It is important that children have the opportunity to practise using their phonic knowledge to sound out words (**blending**) and recognise tricky words that cannot be blended e.g. said. Children also need to talk about and understand what they read.

Writing

Children are taught to write in small groups with an adult (**guided writing**) and in whole class sessions (**Shared writing**). Children have opportunity to write as part of their play e.g. menus, lists, prescriptions. Children are encouraged to have a go, use what they know and read back their own writing. Children are only corrected after a skill has been taught e.g. 'said' as 'sed' would only be corrected after the tricky word has been taught.

How families can help support children's learning in English:

- Listen to your child read for 5 or 10 minutes, 3 or 4 times a week. Children who become good readers are children who read and share books at home as well as in school.
- Encourage your child to speak in full sentences
- Practise recognising and writing letter sounds and names (Reception)
- Practice spellings (from Year One)
- Praise your child's efforts in reading and writing

We would welcome any feedback on this booklet. Please write your comments on a piece of paper, along with your child's name and class, and return them to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

