



## English at Maryland 'Where our children's future matters most'

Our aim is to ensure that all pupils have a love of the English Language and its literary heritage. We make sure that at every opportunity, we enable our pupils to become articulate speakers, successful readers and writers to prepare them for the very best future. Our publishing website ([www.wEpublish.org](http://www.wEpublish.org)) is dedicated to celebrating the writing talents of our pupils. We have worked hard to develop our curriculum and methods for teaching this important subject so that it is relevant, engaging and challenging to all. We are a model school for Oxford University Press in the teaching of the successful phonic programme, Read Write Inc.



**We take real pride in our book corners. Each one is themed. They are strictly for children only!**

## Reading

Pupils learn to read in many different ways. Every day, children read independently, in groups or with the teacher. This might be during lessons, registration or break times, weather permitting, pupils read in the garden. In order to widen reading repertoire, all staff will read linked literature to the topic being taught. For example, pupils learning about the Vikings chose to listen to Beowulf as their class book. We have two school libraries and every class has their own collection in their book corner. We pride ourselves on making these spaces attractive

and enticing so that there is a special place to read and imagine.

It is important to that our pupils experience our great English wordsmiths.

Some of our lessons are based around writers and poets such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Christina Rossetti, Benjamin Zephaniah, Rudyard Kipling, Oscar Wilde, Michael Morpurgo, William Shakespeare, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Charles Dickens.

Every week, we have a dedicated reading hour where all children have the opportunity to work with stronger readers as role models. There is a different focus for different groups, with some continuing to read as a group and focus on the mechanics of reading, and others functioning more as a literature circle with pupils reading the texts individually at home, leaving greater time for discussion and the teaching of higher level concepts.



## Writing

All pupils have the opportunity to craft the best writing they can through planning, drafting and redrafting. Pupils celebrate and publish their work on our dedicated website: [www.wepublish.org](http://www.wepublish.org). Some of our pupils were able to read their space books to the astronaut Tim Peake.



## Performance

Oracy has a central place in our curriculum. Performance is crucial to celebrate high quality speaking and listening. Pupils have performed at Stratford Circus as part of Every Child A Theatre Goer. We have taken part in performances with Michael Rosen and Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. The school's debating teams won both Newham prizes in 2016.

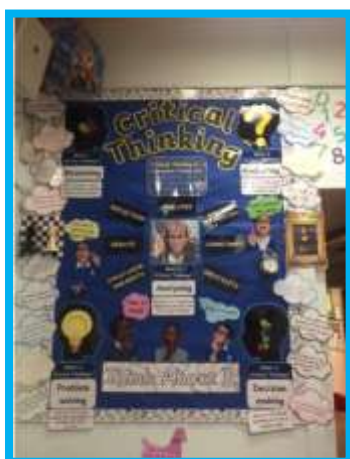


Reception have run a choral speaking club for children to perform poetry. Here is a video



## Critical Thinking

We place great emphasis on the importance and time to think. We carried out a research project in Japan and brought back the concept of 'critical thinking'. As a result we have dedicated weekly assemblies that focus on big questions enabling our pupils to embrace the complex through debate. Our Debate Mate team won the local league due to their skills at articulating and tricky arguments. Projects have been based around poetry recitals and speeches to develop public speaking skills.



Around our school we encourage critical thinking with questions to contemplate. We have published a magazine based around critical thinking called 'Ready, Steady.. Think'. If you would like to find out more please come and visit.

## Our Favourite Authors

We often have authors visit to celebrate their work and for pupils to develop a deeper understanding of story writing. Most recently, our Year 5s met with Neil Zetter to listen to a poetry performance and write some of their own. Read their work on [www.wepublish.org](http://www.wepublish.org).



## Author Visits

- Year 5 poet writing workshop with [Neil Zetter](#)
- [Michael de Sousa](#)- Rasta Mouse
- Creative writing with [Malorie Blackman](#)
  - Poetry Day with [Libby Houston](#)
  - [Trish Cooke](#) – Author of book 'So Much!'



## Writing

Have you seen our website dedicated to publishing our pupil's writing? [www.wepublish.org](http://www.wepublish.org)



## [Help at home](#)

How can you support your child to learn at home?

Have a look at the below websites to support home learning.

<https://content.lgfl.org.uk/secure/grammar/>

<http://www.literacyshed.com/>

<https://www.spellingcity.com/spelling-games-vocabulary-games.html>

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/grammar-practice>

Attend our Year 1 phonics parent workshop in the Autumn term. We discuss top tips for help at home with your child to ensure that they are able to enjoy reading independently and with you from the earliest age. The reading leader and the year 1 team are always available to answer any questions you may have about your child's phonic progression. The phonic screening check was introduced by the Government in 2012 for all year 1 children to sit in June every year. We are a model school for our phonic delivery and have many visitors from far and wide who come to watch our lessons in practice.

Here are a list of some Critical thinking websites for reading. Some of the websites focus on how parents can support children.

- <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/learn/critical-reading.html>
- <http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/learning/FileStore/Filetoupload,628271,en.pdf>
- <http://www.springboard.org.uk/data/files/Parents/parents-little-guide.pdf>
- <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/more-reading-resources/reading-tips-parents>
- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/top-tips-for-reading/age-7-9--3>

Star reader review: Seynab Class 13

Anne Frank

I have chosen Anne Frank as it is one of my favourite books and it gives a real insight on what life was like for Jews in WWII. An autograph book was given to Anne for her thirteenth birthday, she decided to use it as a diary. She started writing in it during the June of 1942 when Adolf Hitler had launched his aggressive campaign against the Jews of Europe.

The family receives a call-up notice from the SS. At that moment you start to realise how serious the situation is. At first, they think it is for Otto, the father, but then we find out that the call up is actually for Anne's 16 year old sister, Margot. A call up is when Jews are sent to concentration camps to be killed. This meant the Frank family had go into hiding. They used Otto's workplace in the old laboratory there, known as 'The Secret Annexe'. They were joined by the Van Daans, good friends of the family. They lived in the Annexe from 1942 to 1944 until they were discovered by the Gestapo. Otto found Anne's diary and published it in 1947 and it has been translated into 60 languages. Because it is a diary entry, Anne is describing events in history that most people have no idea about. This is my favourite book I have come across, so I would recommend it to all children aged 10 and over.