



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. 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 an international 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 nature's garden having access to our mobile library.

In order to widen reading repertoire, all staff will read literature linked to the history or geography topic being taught that term. 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 too that our pupils experience famous wordsmiths. Some of our lessons are based around authors and poets such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Benjamin Zephaniah, Rudyard Kipling, Alfred Noyes, Micheal Morpurgo, William Shakespeare, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Roald Dahl, David Walliams and JK Rowling.



Every week, some of our older children have the opportunity to work as role models with younger children to develop their passion for reading and an understanding of what they have read.

Writing

All pupils have the opportunity to craft the best writing they can through planning, drafting and redrafting. They are able to use the Chromebooks to share their work on Google classroom with both their teachers and their peers.

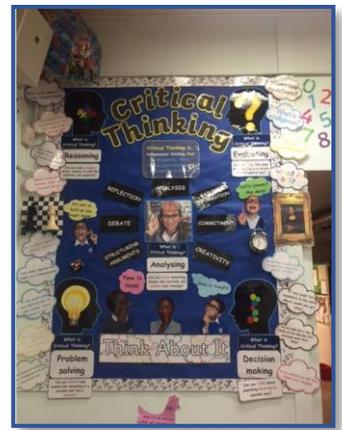
Performance

Oracy has a central place in our curriculum. Performance is crucial to celebrate high quality speaking and listening. The school's debating teams won both Newham prizes in 2016. Our harvest and Easter performances to the children and parents always contain elements of choral speaking and the recital of poetry.

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, our children are now able to confidently share their opinions freely and discuss with one another the importance of their views and how they differ from one another. Our 'Debate Mate' team won the local league due to their skills at articulating tricky arguments voicing the pros and cons.

Around our school, we encourage critical thinking questions to contemplate. We published a magazine based around critical thinking called 'Ready, Steady.. Think'.



Talk Time

Three short sessions are dedicated to 'Talk Time' every week. These slots expose the children to different and exciting stimuli using images, short videos, music or objects. The children are then presented with a series of probing questions which have no right or wrong answer but they have to justify their thoughts and opinions to the rest of the class. This in turn deepens the children's comprehension in different scenarios.

Help at home

How can you support your child to learn at home?

Have a look at the links below for support ideas.

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

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

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

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

Phonics

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 phonics 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 (recent visitors came from Australia and Japan) who come to watch our lessons in practice.

Here is a list of some critical thinking websites for reading. Some of the websites focus on how parents can support children in this area of their learning.

- <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>