



Melbury Primary School **English Curriculum Intent**

All our children will learn to speak, read, write and effectively so that they can succeed in their life beyond Melbury Primary school, preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Literacy skills are an essential aspect of our children's cultural capital:

Reading is a priority in our school and sits at the heart of our curriculum. As a school community, we place great importance on the progress of a child's reading for pleasure habits, reading attainment and knowledge acquisition through the sequential teaching of reading no matter what their starting point, background or additional needs they may have. We believe that reading is a vital skill that should be acquired as early and efficiently as possible to enable children to have maximum access to all areas of the curriculum. We provide them with quality texts (including electronic and online texts) which are linked to the termly topic. We aim to build a curriculum which develops a love of reading through well-chosen and vocabulary rich texts, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry, to help pupils know more, remember more and understand more and that will stay with them throughout their lives.

We believe that the foundation for all literacy skills is the spoken word. Aiming to develop high oracy skills in all our children, regardless of their first language, we want them to speak clearly, confidently and fluently using standard English.

At Melbury, phonics underpins the application and early development of sound reading skills. Therefore, we ensure that it is taught in a structured format enabling children to use and apply strategies across the curriculum. This is why we teach reading through *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonics in Nursery/Reception and follow the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised progression*, which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school.

In K.S 2 phonics is taught as an intervention in Year 3. Children gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. We aim is to support all children to develop a good vocabulary regardless of barriers and our intention to ensure that all pupils read widely, confidently with fluency and comprehension appropriate to their age.

We understand the important role the school environment plays in fostering a love of reading in our children. Our school environment encourages a passion for reading inside the classroom and beyond, reflecting our belief that reading is at the heart of learning.

Through our English curriculum, children will develop a confidence and love for words, language, reading and writing.