

# English

The school follows the National Curriculum for all pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. For part of each lesson, children may work as a whole class, in ability groupings or independently on reading, writing and grammar, punctuation and spelling activities. The school teaches the “Read write Inc” phonics programme; a book banded reading scheme from a variety of publishers; and the progression guidance for Kent for grammar, punctuation and spelling. In addition, from years 1 to 6, children are set personalised spellings to learn: at the start of each term, children are diagnostically tested for spellings and they are then set spellings to learn according to the phase achieved in this test.



Where possible, learning in English is linked with the topic we follow. This is achieved through carefully selecting texts linked to that topic and planning meaningful, creative writing activities. Comprehension and grammar, punctuation and spelling activities are linked to that topic too. For example, Key Stage 2 children have been studying texts including “Journey to the River Sea” by Eva Ibbotson and “The Chocolate Tree” by Linda Lowery and Richard Keep; these are linked to the topic “The Ancient Maya”.



At Sandhurst, we have a school library which is used by pupils of all ages. Together with Mrs Channon, a group of year 6 children are trained to be librarians and our school library is open to all children to use on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday break times.

Book Week is always a really popular time at Sandhurst. Each year, we have a different theme – the most recent being “Story Book Bears”. Book Week is launched with an assembly during which staff share snippets of their favourite books. In addition, we also plan lots of other exciting events including teacher time story sessions and story-telling tents. We have a travelling book fair in school and we always end the week with a dress-up assembly. Pupils and staff are encouraged to dress up as a character from their favourite book and the winner from each class will win a book. We celebrate the end of Book Week by opening our doors from 2:30pm - 3:00pm to give parents the opportunity to look at their child’s Book Week work.

Throughout each academic year, we have two special themed writing weeks. These are designed to enrich our children's education beyond the statutory curriculum. Last year, we enjoyed “Superhero Week” and “Pet Week”, both of which provided excellent stimuli for our creative writing.



Children are encouraged to read at home and they have reading diaries in which both parents and teachers can communicate with each other. The school promotes and celebrates reading at home through our “Read and Discover” scheme. Children and parents record children’s home reading in their reading diaries and when a child reaches ten consecutive reads, they receive a reward. In addition, Key Stage 2 children have the opportunity to visit the community mobile library every other week.



Number of reads	Reward
First 10 consecutive reads	Bronze award
Next 10 consecutive reads	Silver award
Next 10 consecutive reads	Gold award
Next 10 Consecutive reads	Raffle ticket (entered into the end of term draw for the chance to win an Amazon voucher)
Read every day for one whole term	Platinum award and entered into a prize draw for the chance to win a bike at the end of the school year.