

The Teaching of English and Phonics at Longwill School

At Longwill, our aim is not only to teach our pupils to read but to foster a lifelong love of reading itself. Pupils are exposed to a rich variety of literature, both modern and classic, through a variety of communication approaches (spoken English, BSL, SSE) that recognise the diverse language needs of our school community.

Bug Club and Bug Club Phonics are used to systematically teach and develop reading and phonic skills and these are supported by the use of Visual Phonics to enable all our pupils to develop to their full potential. We are also currently working with the University of Birmingham to trial 'Foundations for Literacy' a literacy scheme which has been created specifically to teach phonics and reading skills to Deaf pupils.

Pupils use their developing phonic knowledge and sight vocabulary when writing. Sentence Street is utilised to support pupil knowledge of English word order and specific skills are taught discreetly in English lessons e.g. use of past tense, plurals, adjectives. Skills learned are applied in weekly independent 'Big Writing' sessions.

Termly writing competitions, World Book Day celebrations, BSL and spoken English story time, visiting theatre companies and weekly school library sessions, are just some of the ways Longwill ensures that our pupils receive a dynamic and vibrant English curriculum.

Susan Ganss

Lead Teacher for English