

Subject Report

Teacher: Rebecca Taylor

Subject: English

Date: May 2023

This year at Holly Grove, we have had a whole school focus on Communication. Myself, Julie Aspin (Communication Lead) and Michelle Grimshaw (Interventions TA) attended Makaton Training to Level 4 in Spring 22. Our training has enabled us to present Makaton Workshops as whole school staff training and 2 parent workshops (Level 1.) Level 2 workshop for parents will happen in the Summer Term 23. As a whole school, we are learning 2 Makaton signs a week. We received great feedback from parents. We have also had training in Intensive Interaction and the use of intervention groups such as Talk Boost to help promote communication for our pupils.

Phonics has continued to be a priority and intervention groups take place throughout the week. These sessions support children with their reading skills and also support children who will be sitting their Phonics Screening Test in Year 1 or 2. Through Pupil Progress meetings, we identified children who were not making progress through Phonics and have brought into 'Words First.' The scheme takes a carefully structured approach to learning to read and write, by linking word recognition and comprehension skills in a series of graded steps. The aim is to teach the High Frequency Words both individually and within a reading context, so that the children realise from the very beginning that words join together to convey meaning.

For the academic year 2023-24 we are focussing on 'Reading for Pleasure.' We had a wonderful World Book Day this year and our theme was 'Roald Dahl.' Each class had a particular book to read and explore and the children really enjoyed watching Matilda in the Auditorium. I am very excited for the new build and my aim to have 2 libraries (Lower and Upper school) in the buildings. I have already been collecting books for our community! I also would like to continue to have this ethos within the classroom with reading corners, beanbags and reading time throughout the day. Not only have we purchased bi-lingual reading books for our EAL pupils, but I am also in the process of purchasing the new Disney Reading Scheme collection from Pearsons, which I think will be very popular with our pupils. Through feedback from parents, I felt there was a gap with our Sensory Learners, therefore we have made Sensory Packs with reading books, props and sensory stimuli, to be sent home to read and explore for our Sensory Learners and families.

I am currently reviewing / adapting the English Curriculum during Summer Term 2023.

English Photographs

