

## Subject Report

**Teacher: Jenny Darcy Subject: English Date: 2024-2025**

We have had a wonderful and successful year in English at Holly Grove.

We were thrilled to launch our brand-new Holly Grove Library in January 2025! Since then, our pupils have been enthusiastically exploring the diverse selection of books during their class library sessions, fostering a love of reading as part of our Reading for Pleasure initiative.

We have also embedded the use of our new Phonics Tracker, which enables staff to assess and monitor phonics more efficiently and effectively. This tool has been great to monitor the progress of our children and support the development of their Phonic understanding.

Our World Book Day this year was also a huge success, with staff and pupils commenting it had been the best World Book Day ever. Our theme was 'Superheroes and Villains'. All classes received new Super Hero themed books for their Reading Corners and enjoyed completing a range of reading related activities. The public library on our campus also delivered fantastic sensory story sessions for all of our classes based on our theme too. We finished with a fabulous celebration assembly where we showcased our outfits on the red carpet and announced winners of our competitions. We even had a surprise visit from a Power Ranger!

We are continuing to develop our partnership with the public library on our campus, arranging regular visits for sensory story sessions and enabling pupils to borrow books using their own library cards. In addition, all classes are making visits to Fence Library, where they also have the opportunity to purchase new books, further enriching our reading experiences.

We have enhanced parental engagement in English by hosting and delivering Phonics, Communication and Makaton workshops, providing families with valuable strategies to support their child's learning at home. Additionally, we've had one-to-one sessions to support parents in developing their children's communication skills more effectively.

Staff have benefitted from a range of CPD opportunities focused on English and Communication, including training in our Total Communication approach, PECS, Phonics and TD Snap. Targeted interventions continue to be a strength across the school, with ongoing delivery of programmes such as Early Talk Boost, Attention Autism, Words First, Makaton, and Phonics. Additionally, five children are set to take the Phonics Screening Test in June 2025.

Finally, we are pleased to now host the Special Schools' English Network Meeting each term at Holly Grove. This initiative brings together English Subject Leaders from local special schools, providing a valuable opportunity to collaborate, share best practices, and engage in joint professional development to strengthen the teaching of English across our settings.



