

We have introduced a new and exciting approach to the teaching of Literacy at Morpeth Road this year – Reading WISE and Writing WISE which have been rolled out from KS1 all the way through to Year 6.

Reading WISE

These lessons aim to foster a life-long love of reading. They involve whole class participation in reading a class text (see attached overview to see all of the high-quality texts that we'll be reading with your children). Children will also experience reading a variety of quality non-fiction texts and poetry.

Reading WISE involves teaching the children a range of comprehension skills through a range of activities and discussion. These skills are:

- **Predicting** – Children think about 'what if' or 'what next' questions.
- **Inferring** – Children are reading detectives and look for clues which the author has planted in the text.
- **Asking Questions** – Children are taught to generate their own questions in order to check their comprehension.
- **Evaluating** – Children are taught to comment on the author's use of language and text organisation.
- **Clarifying** – Children are encouraged to identify areas of uncertainty and seek information to clarify them.
- **Making Connections** – Children draw on their own personal experiences and relate things to texts that they've already read.
- **Summarising** – Children are taught to identify the key content of sections of the text.

These lessons enhance oracy skills and will focus a lot on developing children's vocabulary and will lead into the Writing WISE unit structure as this is inspired by the high-quality reading texts.

Writing WISE

Each unit of work is split into **9 stages**:

Stages 1 and 2: Children explore an Excellence model (teacher written text based on the book) through drama, vocabulary activities and lots and lots of talk! This is a great way for children to understand how texts are written, what features they include and why and learn new and ambitious vocabulary!

Stage 3: pulls the text part even further to identify genre and grammar specific features which then leads to the creation of a 'Writer's toolkit'. This gives children an outline which they can then confidently use when they come to write.

Stage 4: An exciting and important stage for the children. They work alongside their teacher through shared/modelled writing. They will explore a new idea for their writing and the teacher will model how to write using all the relevant/age related features from the toolkit before the children have a go themselves. This then leads on to **Stage 5** where the teacher will focus on an area that the children may need a little more help with. E.g Semi-colons in Year 6 are always a tricky piece of punctuation to master!

Stage 6: A guided planning session. Here at Morpeth Road we believe that in order to teach effectively, we need to clearly model our expectations to children. During this stage, the teacher will

model their own planning before children generate ideas and then plan for their own – they're almost ready to write!

Stage 7: A 'Vomit Draft' session. We often put so much pressure on our children to be perfect all of the time and this session takes the pressure off a little as we encourage them to focus on their wonderful ideas rather than worrying about whether their handwriting is perfect and whether they've remembered their capital letters! (Of course, these things are important and we'll come to that bit!)

Stage 8: Conference time where the children support each other to make their Vomit Drafts ready to be published. We provide the children with opportunities for structured conversations where they will share their work with one another and offer suggestions of how it can be made even better. The teacher will oversee this and support all the children to make sure that they're ready to write their final, independent piece.

Stage 9: Children get the chance to show off how fantastic they are by writing their 'Polished Piece' of writing. It'll be in the same genre as the original excellence model but will be based on a completely new topic/idea. Each week the teacher will choose two pieces which will be displayed on the classroom doors for all to see and copies will be sent home so that you can see the high quality work that the children here are producing.