

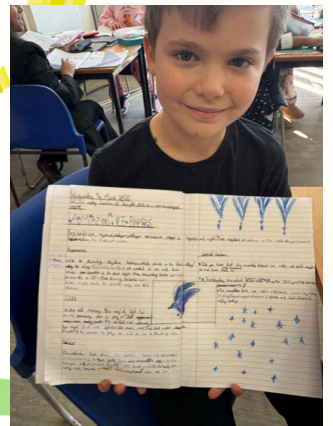
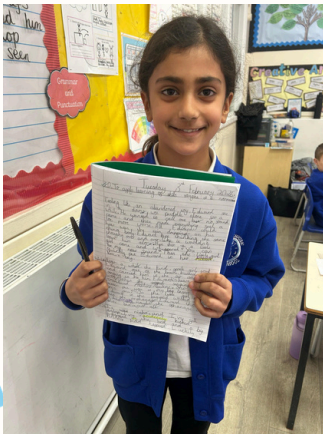


English at Clockhouse



Time to celebrate...

We are very proud of the children's progress in English, particularly their confidence in expressing ideas, enjoying stories, and developing their writing.



Changes to our reading curriculum



As you may know, we have always taught the reading strategies using the VIPERS approach (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and sequencing)

After extensive research and staff training we have now decided to make the changes to move to our Clockhouse Comprehension Stems.



Reading for pleasure at Clockhouse

Reading for pleasure means choosing to read because you enjoy it. At Clockhouse Primary School, we encourage children to see reading as a fun and relaxing activity, not just something they do for learning.

Regular reading helps children build vocabulary, improve their understanding, and develop confidence. Most importantly, it helps them develop a lifelong love of books.

Here are some of the ways we have promoted reading for pleasure this year:



In the Autumn term we hosted our very first 'Booknic'.



In February, we re-positioned the 'Book Swap Shop' to make it more accessible before and after school.



In our lessons we often use pair reading as a tool to improve our fluency but during World Book Day the children completed a paired reading activity with children in different year group.



Every year we try to have different authors visit. This year we had a visit from Dizzy Carr a local author who met with Reception and KS1 to talk about his most recent story book.



Parent 'Stay and Read' are always a popular event with children and parents and we would love to introduce this as a more frequent event if it is something you would be interested in.



Still to come this year....

- The Scholastic book fair
- Years R-5 trips to Collier Row Library

The children have a chance to visit our school library every week and select a book of their choice. Once a term, they also work as a class to select the books to go into their class treasure chest.



Does your child have the correct pencil grip?



Having the correct pencil grip is important for children of all ages as it helps them write comfortably and with better control. A good pencil grip supports neat handwriting, improves stamina when writing for longer periods, and helps children form letters more accurately.

For primary school children, pencil grip usually develops through a progression of immature grasps to mature grasps as their fine motor skills strengthen. At Clockhouse we aim to support children towards the mature tripod-style grips, which give the best control for handwriting.



These grips are common in younger children (Nursery–Reception) while their hand muscles and coordination are still developing.

Immature Grasps	
Radial cross palmar grasp	
Palmar supinate grasp	
Digital pronate grasp	
Brush grasp	
Grasp with extended fingers	
Static tripod grasp	

How can you help at home?

- Encourage the tripod grip – remind children to hold the pencil between the thumb and index finger, resting on the middle finger.
- Use shorter pencils or crayons – these naturally encourage children to use the correct grip.
- Build hand strength through play – activities such as colouring, cutting, using playdough, Lego or threading beads help strengthen the small muscles needed for writing.



The dynamic tripod grip is the grip that we encourage because it provides the best balance of control, comfort and endurance for writing tasks.

Mature Grasps	
Lateral quadrupod	
Dynamic quadrupod	
Lateral tripod grasp	
Dynamic tripod grasp	

How can you help at home?

- Encouraging regular drawing and writing to help build stamina and confidence.
- Providing a comfortable writing space with the correct table and chair height to support good posture.
 - Continuing fine motor activities such as colouring, puzzles, Lego or crafts to maintain strong hand muscles for writing.