



# LEECHPOOL CURRICULUM Newsletter



## Writing

Our recent inset day focused on developing our teaching of writing and science, with an emphasis on the integration of gamification. Teachers engaged in activities and training sessions aimed at refining their skills in providing constructive feedback, implementing creative writing prompts, and scaffolding techniques to support students of diverse needs. However, it was the exploration of gamification principles that stood out as a promising avenue for enriching our children's learning experience in writing.

Gamification, which involves incorporating game elements into non-game contexts, has shown substantial benefits in fostering active learning and intrinsic motivation among students. During our inset day, teachers engaged in various gamification strategies tailored to develop writing skills in children. One effective approach involved storytelling games, where children collaboratively develop narratives, incorporating elements like character development, plot twists, and descriptive language. These games not only sparked creativity but also promote collaboration and communication skills among students.

Additionally, teachers explored gamified vocabulary development activities, which will help further our focus on oracy across the school in all subjects. Whether embarking on a fantasy quest or solving a mystery, we hope the new strategies and understanding developed during the training will help accelerate the children's enthusiasm and skills in writing.

The advantages of integrating gamification into writing instruction are numerous. It cultivates intrinsic motivation by making learning enjoyable and rewarding, fosters a growth mindset by presenting challenges as opportunities for development, and facilitates personalised learning experiences customised to students' interests and preferences.

Our inset day highlighted the potential of gamification in nurturing writing skills among students. It provided dynamic and engaging methods to stimulate creativity and cultivate a genuine enthusiasm for writing.

## Reading

*'A book is a magical thing that lets you travel to far-away places without ever leaving your chair'*

Katrina Mayer

We have been very lucky to have had a visit from author David Fuller this term. It was inspiring to hear from a real life author about his writing process. The children were enthused hearing him read sections of his books and had the opportunity to buy some signed copies. Don't worry if you didn't, we have purchased copies for the school library and these can be borrowed to read at home. Yesterday marked World Book Day and it was fantastic to see such a wide variety of books brought in to school to share during our 'Book Cafes'. We have loved seeing the photos of children reading in strange places, and hope that have fun choosing a new book using their World Book Day token.

*Mrs Vowels*, Reading Leader



Biscuits and books in Pandas!



Koalas had teddies at their café



Llamas enjoying the book café

## Term to learn

This term, our "Term to Learn" initiative has returned, offering all children the opportunity to explore the world of musical instruments. We firmly believe in the importance of learning to play an instrument for the comprehensive development of children. Consequently, we have designated a specific term within each year group for this purpose. Building on the success of previous years, we have expanded the range of instruments we offer. In Year 1, percussion instruments are introduced through whole-class teaching. Moving on to Year 2, students delve into the realms of the recorder and glockenspiel. In Year 3, they have the opportunity to master the trumpet, followed by the djembe drum in Year 4. Year 5 brings exploration with the ukulele, while Year 6 focuses on guitar proficiency. This initiative yields a multitude of benefits for our children. Learning an instrument not only sharpens cognitive capabilities such as memory, attention, and problem-solving, but also nurtures creativity and self-expression. In addition, it instils discipline, perseverance, and self-assurance. Serving as an emotional outlet, playing an instrument brings joy and fulfilment. By embracing the challenge of mastering a new instrument, all children at Leechpool not only refine their musical abilities but also acquire invaluable life skills.