



HOLMLEIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL INSIGHTS

The joy of Reading, the Power of Writing

Miss Gaylor

Deputy Headteacher & English Lead

“There’s a special magic in our daily story time and focused class reads, where we gather to listen and talk about stories together.”





As the English Lead, my role is really about making sure every child finds their voice through a genuine love of words. I've been leading literacy for 20 years now, and that passion has only grown. I'm a firm believer that literacy isn't just an academic box to tick, it starts with oracy.

By teaching our children to speak confidently and listen with intent, we give them the tools to become great readers and powerful writers.





At Holmleigh, our pupils benefit from some fantastic programmes to help them thrive. We use Talk for Writing to get children storytelling out loud and building their oral confidence before they even pick up a pencil. For deeper thinking, Daily Supported Reading, Bridge to DR and Destination Reader encourage rich classroom talk and debate about big ideas.

For our early readers, we use Bug Club Phonics, and for our Key Stage 2 students, we've implemented Rapid Phonics as a targeted intervention to quickly close any gaps and ensure no child is left behind.





We also use Accelerated Reader to help children track their progress and celebrate their successes. But beyond the 'how-to' of literacy, my real passion is fostering a lifelong love of books. There's a special magic in our daily story time and focused class reads, where we gather to listen and talk about stories together.

We've now taken this into the playground with our brand-new lunchtime reading shed, a cosy escape where children can share a book and chat about their favourite characters during their break.





Visitors to our school often note how enthusiastically our children speak about their favourite authors and how the positive reading culture truly shines through in every classroom.

I also love connecting our school to the wider community. Through our links with the National Literacy Trust, the Hackney Reading Champions initiative, and our new Holmleigh Poetry Ambassador, we are constantly finding new ways for students to perform, speak out and lead.





Ultimately, my goal is to ensure that the journey from confident talk to fluent reading ends in inspired writing. When a child has the vocabulary to express themselves and the imagination sparked by a great book, their writing truly takes flight.

I want every child at Holmleigh to leave us not just as a capable student, but as an articulate, creative communicator who knows that their story matters.

Miss Gaylor

Deputy Headteacher & English Lead

