



Speaking and Listening at Longshaw

“Words are our most inexhaustible source of magic.” Albus Dumbledore

We want our children to be taught in a language rich environment, where they speak clearly and with confidence, conveying their views and ideas fluently using an ever growing vocabulary. An emphasis on the teaching of vocabulary and developing oracy skills, places speaking and listening at the heart of our English and wider curriculum with the teachers as a clear role model for all children.

We believe that every child has the potential to become a confident and articulate speaker and have strong, effective listening skills. These are essential skills for future success. Opportunities to develop and hone children’s oracy and listening skills are embedded not only in the English curriculum but also across the wider curriculum. Topics can include discussions, debates, performances and presentations. Children practise speaking for a variety of purposes and audiences, adapting their language appropriately as well as their intonation, tone, volume and actions and are able to work individually or in small or larger groups with peers or older or younger children.

School visits and visitors into school are used to inspire, inform or give purpose to teaching and learning of speaking and listening. ‘Hooks’ for learning, for example, at the beginning of a topic often generate lots of talk and discussion. Across school, children also have a range of opportunities to take their learning outdoors and to explore outdoor environments, such as Forest School, which aim to inspire their speaking and listening.