

Modern Foreign Language (Spanish): The Wray Common Way!

At Wray Common, we are passionate about developing the children as Spanish speakers. We do this through interesting games and activities that involve children practising speaking and listening to a new language, providing an appropriate balance between spoken and written word, laying the foundations for further foreign language teaching. We enable pupils to understand and communicate ideas, facts and feelings in speech and writing, focused on familiar and routine matters, using their knowledge of phonology, grammatical structures and vocabulary. The focus of study is on practical communication. To ensure lessons are as practical and engaging as possible, we immerse children in life-like scenarios where they can speak and practice Spanish. We make sure that the children understand what each word means, listening attentively to spoken language and showing understanding by joining in and responding. Children explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words. We engage children in conversations such as; asking and answering questions; expressing opinions and responding to the opinions of others. Pupils learn to speak in sentences, use familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures.

Learning another language also presents opportunities for the reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other curriculum areas. Related with English, they practice speaking and listening skills, knowledge and understanding of grammatical structures and sentence construction. Aspects of Maths include counting, calculations, the time and the date. Music is incorporated through singing songs with rhyme and Geography is revisited through the knowledge of countries around the world where people speak Spanish.

In Year 3, the children are expected to start having a basic knowledge of Spanish. Pupils can greet and say their names, count up to 30 and say when their birthday is. Children start to understand basic Spanish grammar, reading carefully and showing understanding of words, phrases and simple writing.

During Year 4, pupils can greet, say their names and age fluently, name family members and colours. At this stage, children develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are using familiar words and phrases.

In Year 5, pupils can name school subjects and items from around school, recognising them in Spanish. They can give an opinion about how they feel, writing and saying phrases from memory. They can adapt language to create new sentences and express ideas clearly. Children also present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences.

When they reach Year 6, pupils can say their nationalities and say what they like to do in their spare time. They can start to describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing.

Throughout their time at Wray Common, children become more fluent in basic Spanish and improve their cultural knowledge. They recognise the real life benefits of learning Spanish, such as being able to practise their skills if they travel to Spain or any of the many other Spanish speaking countries in the world. They also recognise the benefits of being able to communicate globally in Spanish.