

## **Drama**

Drama at Potton is a means for children to orientate themselves in the wider world. It gives children opportunities to explore, discuss and deal with difficult issues and to express their emotions in a supportive environment. Drama encourages them to think and act creatively, thus developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills that can be applied in all areas of learning. Through Drama, children are encouraged to take responsible roles and make choices - to participate in and guide their own learning.

Pupils have one weekly Drama lesson in Years Five and Six and study Drama in KS3 through special focus days throughout the year. During the course of the year pupils study a number of different disciplines including - devising, improvisation, script writing, character development and vocal production. Pupils work practically, building drama skills and a knowledge of drama vocabulary. They create performances and learn to analyse their own and others' work. Pupils also study key periods of theatre history, including Elizabethan Theatre and Melodrama, whilst a range of modern plays and styles of drama are also explored.

Pupils at KS2 and KS3 can also participate in our popular weekly after-school Drama Club, attend our extra-curricular theatre trips, as well as auditioning for one of our annual full-school productions.

### **Drama in the English Curriculum**

While Drama is offered to KS2 pupils as a 'stand-alone' lesson in their weekly timetable, the National Curriculum for English also reflects the importance of spoken language in pupils' development across the whole curriculum - cognitively, socially and linguistically.

Spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing. The quality and variety of language that pupils hear and speak are vital for developing their vocabulary and grammar and their understanding for reading and writing. Through the medium of performance and role play, Potton Middle endeavours to ensure the continual development of pupils' confidence and competence in spoken language and listening skills.