

## Vocabulary at Queensbridge

At Queensbridge we equip our pupils with a large and rich vocabulary across the curriculum through explicit modelling in writing, reading and orally. Teaching vocabulary is based around the ideas of Isabel Beck's "Bringing Words to Life", which advocates categorising words into three tiers:

**Tier 1** words are everyday words that appear in oral conversations.

**Tier 2** words are words that are more often used in written text. From EYFS through Year 6, teachers model the use of this sophisticated vocabulary in lessons and conversation, so that pupils are consistently exposed to a high level of language. Teachers 'drip-feed' higher-level vocabulary across all learning so that children are prepared to access this language in reading and writing, as well as to use this in their own conversations. For example, in Reception teachers ensure that they use appropriate synonyms for adjectives (*big, enormous, huge*) to expose pupils to a wide range of vocabulary.

**Tier 3** words are topic-specific words that are typically used in science, geography and history lessons to explain concepts – for example, photosynthesis. Teachers carefully plan for the explicit modelling of these words, and ensure that they are revisited regularly to allow recognition and understanding to go into the long-term memory.

The teaching of vocabulary at Queensbridge is a journey from EYFS to Year 6 based on the principles of repetition ('drip-feeding') and explicit modelling. Our belief is that that access to a wide vocabulary 'frees' learners to access a wide-range of academic material, and to deepen their understanding of concepts. Pupils are praised for their using Tier 2 and 3 vocabulary across the curriculum both orally and in their writing, and teachers carefully plan to ensure that students develop a love and appreciation of language and words.