**Why Oracy?** 

All teachers, during this academic year, will be developing further their skills to teach effective Oracy. Oracy is the ability to express oneself effectively through spoken language and plays a crucial role in not only preparing our students for academic success, but also equipping them with essential life skills. Oracy fosters effective communication, critical thinking and empowerment thus setting the foundation for life-long learning and success in all aspects of life.

We believe effective speech is fundamental in helping our children reach their full potential. The power of speech is part of the divine skills bestowed on us through God; a manifestation of our unique status as human creations of God. As in Genesis 2-19, when God created humanity, he gave man the ability to speak and name the animals. The gift of speech is seen as a divine endowment with both practical and spiritual significance. It is not only a means of communication but also a tool for expressing faith, fostering community, and fulfilling God's purposes in the world through: 

* Communicating with God through prayer and worship.
* Evangelizing and sharing the faith and teachings of Jesus Christ.
* Upholding our moral responsibility to promote love, righteousness and justice.
* Being accountable to God for our words and the way we use the gift of speech.

"…*by your words you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:37)*

**Teaching and Learning**

This year every teacher will be involved in a focused Independent Project Inquiry which follows the stages of our performance development cycle: explore, engage and evaluate. Further information about our performance development can be found here. <https://www.sbch.org.uk/performance-development/>

Teachers will be focusing on a range of oracy strategies, ensuring they discover each child’s voice and embed the social and professional skills for talking.