Learning at River View

English

Reading and writing is always a priority at River View. Government research tells us:

“....... there is a positive relationship between reading frequency, reading enjoyment and attainment.”

We believe that writing:

* fosters our ability to explain and refine our ideas to others and ourselves
* preserves our ideas and memories
* allows us to understand our lives
* allows us to entertain others

At River View, we believe that English is fundamental to functioning in today’s society. As well as day-to-day activities, reading and writing develops the mind. Teaching children to read and write helps them to develop their language skills and supports them to listen and communicate. Reading is how we discover new things and writing is how we share them. The person who reads can educate themselves in any area of life they are interested in.

***English is important because words are the building blocks of life.***

At River View, we teach reading including phonics, writing, GPS and spoken language both discreetly and across the whole curriculum. All aspects of English go hand in hand to give pupils a rounded and deep understanding of the subject. Our priority is to create a passion for reading, writing and spoken language and this is delivered through a high quality, well thought out and progressive curriculum.

From the moment children arrive at River View, they are exposed to a language rich environment. Staff support children’s attention, listening, and language skills through their play. Children enjoy learning new vocabulary, listening to stories and talking to others about their experiences. They enjoy sharing books, storytelling and making up their own stories through play. Our youngest children also begin to develop their gross and fine motor skills. They learn to make marks, draw pictures and then how to form letters. At River View, we teach the listening and attention skills that children need to begin their reading journey. We support these important skills through giving children lots of experience of listening to a variety of letters and sounds in different contexts and when children are ready, we begin teaching phonics through ‘Read Write Inc.’ where children learn individual sounds and how to blend sounds into words.

By the time children leave River View, they will have been exposed to a rich variety of texts including fiction, non-fiction, plays and poetry. Children will read a minimum of 48 novels, 48 poems and 48 non-fiction books. We believe this exposure to good quality, carefully selected titles which challenge and engage pupils gives them the best start on their reading journey.

Children are taught to use their reading and writing for different purposes across different subjects. They explore how authors make their writing engaging and effective; working confidently in groups and independently. They discuss, share, and express opinions and are able to make decisions. Teachers continue to promote positive attitudes to reading and writing through challenges, reward systems and high expectations.