

Writing at Thameside

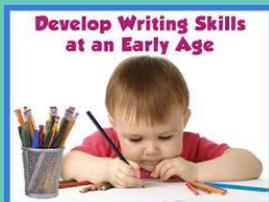
At Thameside Primary School, we aim for our pupils to write with confidence, fluency, imagination and accuracy. To enable this, we approach the teaching and learning of writing through a variety of methods and with strategies that are age appropriate. We recognise that the development of children's writing skills goes hand in hand with the development of language and listening skills, and that ***'If a child can't say it, they can't write it'***.



Writing in EYFS

Emergent Writing at Thameside

Writing begins very early for children when they begin their journey by making marks, rather than producing letters and words. These marks can come in the form of lines, dots, dashes, squiggles, wavy lines across the page and, of course, lots and lots of 'scribbles'. This early mark making is crucial and is extremely important for children to do and must be praised and acknowledged. The marks children make slowly begin to have more meaning for them. As children begin to distinguish between their marks, they highlight the difference between their drawings or writing. Slowly these marks evolve into separate, distinct letters or characters that adults and other children begin to recognise. As children learn more about writing and letters, they may exploit what they know and produce strings of letters from all different contexts. As children begin to learn some phonics they will use initial sound of words to represent the whole word. They will then begin to write simple words and sentences using their phonic knowledge to hear, say and write words.



At Thameside Primary, we offer children a range of experiences to support the development of writing skills. We provide opportunities for writing in both indoor and outdoor environments, and use a range of writing tools such as pens, chalk, paint, shaving foam, salt, flour, glitter sand, corn flour, clip board, note books, sticky pads and ICT interactive white boards.

We also develop 'Story Scribing' in both Nursery and Reception classes. This takes place weekly and demonstrates the importance of modelling

writing for children by adults. This then progresses on to children writing and developing their own stories independently.

Thameside Early Years also follow the Read Write Inc programme to support letter formation and sound recognition.

Writing in KS1 and KS2

All children in KS1 follow *Read Write Inc. Phonics*, a comprehensive literacy programme that provides a structured and systematic approach to teaching literacy and is designed to get children reading and writing quickly. Once off the programme, children then follow *Read Write Inc. Literacy and Language*. This is a creative writing, comprehension and spoken language programme for Years 2 to 6 that meets the requirements of the new curriculum and statutory assessments. Within this programme, children are given opportunities to write most days in their writing logs. These pieces of writing give them opportunities to record predictions, thoughts and ideas and experiment with vocabulary and sentence structures. This helps them to prepare a plan for longer pieces of writing. It also helps to ensure that writing becomes an everyday habit.

In addition, a talk for writing approach is being developed in Year 1 to help children learn about the skills of writing from their reading and draw upon its models in their own work. Writing opportunities are also taken from the book chosen by each year group for the term, including the application of literacy skills in subjects other than English. We have also adopted a regular 'Big Write' slot to further enhance and develop our pupils writing skills.