

Writing at Rickley Park

At Rickley Park we follow the Write Stuff Scheme of Learning from Foundation (where it is called Fantastic Foundations) through to Year 6. Each lesson will be part of a two or three week unit of writing, finishing with an independent piece of work.

What does a typical writing unit look like at Rickley Park?

- We will usually begin with an experience lesson – a practical lesson where children can learn new vocabulary and experience a practical aspect relating to their learning
- There will be around 9 writing lessons – one for each “plot point” or section of writing
- Each of the lessons is then broken into three “chunks” so children work in short bursts
- The children will then plan and write their own piece of work, showing what they have learned
- Each unit will target a particular kind of writing – narrative, letter, instructions etc.

What does a typical writing lesson look like?

The lesson will be broken into three chunks of learning and each of the chunks has three sections.

- 1) Gathering vocabulary, phrases or ideas to use in the next section of writing- the children might watch a clip, discuss an image or use a thesaurus.
- 2) Teacher modelling of the writing, discussing particular skills and grammatical functions.
- 3) Children write, using the model as a base but using the ideas they have gathered.

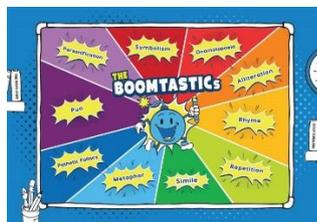
This is then repeated – by the end of the lesson each child will have written a paragraph that will build towards completing a whole piece of writing.

The Fantastic/Grammaristics/Boomtastics:

The Fantastic are icons that help children decide what kind of sentences they might use at different points in a story. For instance – a “feelings” sentence would show a character’s emotions.

The Grammaristics help children to include the different grammar features – eg – using adverbs to show how a character is moving or speaking.

The Boomtastics – these are the “extras” that make writing exciting.



Each week children will also have separate lessons for spelling (using the Spelling Shed) and grammar.

We also use various text types during our foundation lessons, so that children learn to practise what they have learned in different contexts.

What do our books look like at Rickley Park?

- All our writing is recorded in English books, followed by the independent task
- Teachers will give feed-back to children while they are writing when this is possible
- We take great pride in our handwriting and presentation – most children should use joined handwriting by Year 4 and above
- Children will spend time editing and improving their own work, as well as editing with a friend (peer editing)

What do our learning environments look like at Rickley Park?

- Our working walls show current learning- particularly vocabulary; the children are encouraged to refer to them during the lesson for support
- The Fantastics will be on display together with the plot points for the unit

How you can help at home:

- Good writers are good readers; please encourage your child to read regularly at home as this will expand their vocabulary and feed their imagination.