



Design and Technology – Meet the subject leader

Since joining West Rainton Primary School in September 2021, I have had the pleasure of leading design and technology. As a teacher in the Early years, I believe that children begin to gain their initial ‘hands-on’ experience of design and technology in this phase of their education, through building a variety of structures in the construction area with a range of different materials. It is here where they should be able to develop a resilience to take risks and problem solve in order to create a product and prepare them for their future learning in the subject.



Over the past year I have attended many courses with Education Durham, relevant to the subject area. The main area I have focused on this year has been the ‘food and nutrition’ strand of the subject. This has provided me with the knowledge to make changes, moving forward across the whole school. New cookery equipment has been ordered and organised to provide resources for a whole class to work at any one time on a project. New personalised school aprons both for EYFS/KS1 and KS2 are now available for the children to use whilst carrying out activities within the subject. This demonstrates to our pupils the importance of sustainability and eco-friendly considerations when cooking.

From September 2022, the children will begin displaying their work in a journal. This journal will follow the children from year one to year six. I believe that this is an excellent way to show a clear journey of progress in design, technical and evaluative skills. It is also a fabulous resource for the children who are leaving year six to take on their journey into secondary school and beyond.

In line with the school’s overarching curriculum key drivers, design and technology throughout the school has been planned to allow the children the opportunity to experience a rich and varied range of topics that will inspire them to become creative, inquisitive and resilient learners. It will also encourage the children to use research methods to enable them to develop innovative, functional products that will be ‘fit for the purpose’ and allow them to evaluate their product or the products of others.

I am excited to continue my journey within the subject and to keep moving forward in order to provide the children with as many exciting opportunities to equip them in becoming the next generation of innovative designers in the forever growing technical world we live in.

Mrs Gill Pickford