

English – Mrs Ridgway



Hello, I am Mrs Ridgway, and I am the English lead here at Hanwell. I am not an English specialist but, over the years that I have been teaching, I have developed a real love for teaching reading and writing. I particularly enjoy watching children develop in confidence and gain a love for these areas.

Over the years, I have been involved with several projects and initiatives to raise the standards of reading. As a school we have worked hard to really develop and improve the way that we teach reading skills, as well as constantly looking at ways to develop pleasure in reading. I took part in a United Learning project which saw the move from guided reading to whole class reading with a much greater focus on teachers teaching specific reading skills rather than listening to reading. I also take part in the Banbury English Leaders group and in this, we have looked at ways to teach and develop children's fluency and reading stamina. This group is a great opportunity to share and hear about what is happening in other schools.

I have always been a passionate reader but often don't make the time to read as much as I would like. During lockdown 1, I joined a United Learning Online book club with other teachers from Hanwell and took part in a 'teachers as readers group,' which was part of an Open University research project. These opportunities really allowed me to re-kindle my love for reading. In addition to this I work very closely with Mrs Jones our fabulous librarian. Mrs Jones is a great font of knowledge when it comes to books!

I am always looking for ways to improve and support the way that we teach writing in school. Over the past year, Mrs Jones and I have created a detailed overview of the texts that we use to drive writing. Our aim is to use a wide range of text types covering differing cultures, diversity and times in history and we are constantly updating the texts that we use as new books are released. More recently we have started to think about how we can develop writing for pleasure and writing for a purpose and this is an area that I would like to develop over the next few months.