



Ruskin Junior School

Giving pupils a say in their own education

At Ruskin Junior School it is important for pupils to have a say in their own education. Throughout the term they get to decide various topics around which their education will be decided. Subjects chosen by the children range from pirates to dinosaurs, with staff picking some of the topics to make sure every part of the curriculum is covered. Simon Burtrell, the head teacher, says this allows the youngsters to become more engaged in their education. He said: "We ask the pupils what they want to learn about and then we as staff work how to link it to the curriculum. Once a topic is chosen we then develop activities for them to learn from. It is a great way for them to find out about the world and brings out their creativity and ideas."

One such week was called Vain's Arcade, after a child in the U.S.A. who built his own mini arcade. Through this, pupils at Ruskin made their own games to learn about levers and pulleys. As well as developing their creativity, the school also makes sure they are able to develop their active side. Many lessons take place outdoors in the school grounds, especially in the 'Forest School'. "the children are able to get outdoors to learn about nature and other skills, such as lighting a fire," said Simon. "It is something they enjoy a lot and get a great deal out of."

Ruskin Junior School has a very tightly knit team of staff who are well supported by the board of governors, who often give their own time to help around the school. It is this assistance which allows the pupils to benefit from a wide variety of after school activities. Simon said "There is so much for them to do. We have a football team and a touch rugby team. There is the maths club which meets up every night and we sing as a school every day. There is always something going on for the children to enjoy."

Evening Advertiser 25th November 2013