

# Writing at Home





**Dear Parents,**

**This booklet includes information which has been put together by the teachers of Newlands Spring Primary School.**

**The intention is to support you at home when helping your child with their writing.**

**Whilst your child is developing their writing skills it is an ideal opportunity for you to enjoy sharing ideas with them.**

**I hope that you find this booklet helpful. Please do ask if you have any queries.**

**Happy Writing!!**

*Susannah Edom-Baker*



## **Writing at Home**

Thank you for your interest in helping your child with writing at home.

This booklet aims to celebrate our children as writers and suggests ways you can support their development. Children progress at different rates and the ideas can be used and adapted for all different ages.

### **Speaking**

Good speakers become good writers

- Play oracy games e.g. “I went to the supermarket and bought...”
- Expect children to join in family conversations and value their conversations
- Encourage and join in with imaginative role play e.g. pirates, princesses, builders, cowboys etc.
- Share story books
- Tell stories from your own imagination. Don't be embarrassed – your children will love it. No-one else will hear you!

### **Experiences**

Good writers need to have something to say

- Experiences can be free e.g. feeding the ducks, visiting the beach, walking through the countryside.

### **Real Reasons for Writing**

Good writers see others writing and realise writing has a purpose. Tell them if you are writing for a special reason. They can help you to write, or write independently:

- Shopping lists
- Messages
- Postcards
- Invitations
- Greetings Cards
- Thank you letters

### **Being an independent writer**

Many children will write for pleasure at home and share their efforts with you. Please value their attempts and foster their enthusiasm. It may be appropriate to remind them about e.g. key spellings or capital letters but be careful not to squash their spontaneity and eagerness to write. An adventurous word misspelt is better than an everyday word spelt correctly. Children love to write with a range of pens, pencils, sparkly pens and highlighters and on a range of paper.

### **Supporting your child with homework**

#### **KS1: Spelling Homework**

Your child will have been taught the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check system. This can be used effectively at home to learn their spellings. Other ways to practise include: spotting letter patterns, making words with letter tiles (e.g. Scrabble), playing word games (e.g. Hangman). Children should use a pencil to write neatly.

#### **KS2: Literacy Homework**

Juniors may have, in addition to spellings, a written task. Ensure your child applies what they have learnt about capital letters, full stops, spellings etc. Children should use an ink pen (blue or black) to write neatly with joined handwriting. If your child has any worries about a piece of homework, encourage them to see their teacher before it is due in. The glossary at the end of this leaflet explains some words you may come across in your child's homework.

#### **Resources at home**

It is beneficial to have a 'child-friendly' dictionary and thesaurus at home.

Playing word games and board games, e.g. Scrabble, Boggle, will develop your child's vocabulary and make spelling fun. Furthermore, word search books and crossword type games are equally engaging.

Encourage children to ask what a word means if they don't know.

## Glossary

Noun: A word that stands for a person, place or thing, e.g. dog, table.

Proper noun: Names of people and places, e.g. Chelmsford, John.

Verb: A word that shows what a person or thing is doing, e.g. sing, make.

Adjective: A word that describes a noun, e.g. big, funny, red.

Adverb: A word that adds meaning to the verb, e.g. gently, quickly.

Connective: A joining word, e.g. and, so but.

Pronoun: A word used instead of a noun, e.g. he, she, it.

Preposition: A word used with a noun or pronoun to show place, position, time or means, eg. *at* home, *in* the hall, *on* Sunday, *by* car.

Tense: The form of the verb that shows when something happens, e.g. he jumps, he jumped, he will jump.

First person: I, we

Second person: You

Third person: He, she, it, they

Phonics: The teaching of letters and sounds.

Phoneme: a letter or group of letters that represent one sound, e.g. 't', 'ck'.

CVC words: A word spelt consonant, vowel, consonant, e.g. dog, hat.

Prefix: A word or syllable joined to the front of a word to change or add to its meaning, e.g. *unhappy*, *disappear*.

Suffix: A word or syllable joined to the end of a word to change or add to its meaning, e.g. *forgetful*, *rusty*.

Action words: The system used in the Foundation Stage to teach the children the high frequency words.