**Our Lady’s Catholic Primary School**

‘*Loving, Learning and Reaching out to All’*

How to help your child with writing

KS1

Whilst children do lots of English based activities at

school (eg. writing, reading, handwriting, phonics),

there are also lots of ways that you can support your

child at home. It doesn’t have to be by doing pages of

lines, text books or sentences – there are lots of ways

to **make writing fun and meaningful!**

Here are a few ideas to help you…

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| **If you can say it, you can write it!**  The basis of all good writing is talk. When you visit places encourage your child to talk about what they have seen, heard, smelled, tasted and touched.  Encourage your children to share their experiences in as much detail as possible! |  | |
|  | **Let children see you being a model writer!**  Let children see you writing notes, cards or letters to friends or  relatives, a shopping list, an article for a magazine or maybe a story or  poem for them to enjoy.  Let your children see that you are not perfect! Making changes and  editing what you write is a natural part of writing. | |
| Let your child write their own  Christmas cards, thank you  letters, cards or e-mails to  friends or relatives, invitations to  a party, or a list of things they  need to take on holiday. |  | |
|  | Play word-building games like Boggle  or Scrabble.  Games like ‘Guess Who’ can also  develop their descriptive vocabulary. | |
| Different types and colours of  paper, different pens and pencils,  envelopes, stampers and various  other stationary can all be  motivating when your children is  writing.  Maybe you could even create a  special writing corner or area. |  | |
| Encourage your child to rehearse their sentence out loud before they  write it down.  Always encourage children to punctuate their sentences with a full-stop  and capital letter. | | |
| Handwriting does not have to be  boring! Let children practise  drawing letters in sand, water or  paint, or use white boards or  blackboards. Pattern books can be  fun to do and allow children to  practise mark-making. Children  can also make letters using  playdough, pastry or shaving foam. | |  |
|  | | Practise the common exception words for Year 1 and Year 2.  How many words can you read in a  minute?  Haw many words can you spell in a  minute? |
| Make fun ways to learn how to spell a word, for instance ‘because’ **B**ig **E**lephants **C**an **A**lways **U**nderstand **S**mall **E**lephants. | | |
| Help your child write a letter to your child’s favourite author.  Correspondence can often be sent to an author’s publisher (whose details  can be obtained on the Web) who will pass it on. | |  |
| Play ‘I Spy’ – It’s a good way of showing that every word begins with a letter.  ‘Hangman’ is another game that children enjoying playing and encourages use of sounds and spellings. | | |
| When you go on holiday, encourage children to write postcards to friends  or relatives.  They could record things that you do in a holiday diary which they can  share with friends or relatives when they get home. | | |
|  | Use magnetic letters on the fridge to spell out a message.  Encourage your child to write their name, spell words and organise the letters into alphabetical order. | |
| Write an information page or booklet about something they find interesting eg. spiders, Dr Who, dinosaurs, cats, etc. Draw a picture and label it. | | |
| As ever thank you for your continued support, we hope that you find some of these practical ideas helpful and enjoy trying them out at home. | | |