

# 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...

**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.



Year 1 Common Exception Words			
the	is	no	one
a	his	go	once
do	has	so	ask
to	I	by	friend
today	you	my	school
of	your	here	put
said	they	there	push
says	be	where	pull
are	he	love	full
were	me	come	house
was	she	some	our

is  
his  
has  
I  
you  
your  
they  
be

Practise the common exception words for Year 1 and Year 2.  
How many words can you read in a minute?  
How many words can you spell in a minute?

Make fun ways to learn how to spell a word, for instance 'because' **Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants**.

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.