

Canon Popham CofE
Primary Academy

Key Stage 1

Writing Information
For Parents

Aims

- To gain an understanding of how children's writing develops.
- To understand how we teach writing here at Canon Popham.
- To know how we teach some of the technical aspects of writing.
- To give you some practical ideas about how you can support your children at home with their writing.

Time to reflect

- The most proficient writers in any class are always the readers'

- 'We need to stimulate an interest in words and sentences because they lie at the root of all writing'
- 'If you want to be a writer then read, read, read.'
- 'Meagre reading produces thin writing'
- 'Writers read deeply'
- We only write when it matters to us personally' •
'Writing is about who we are. It is particular and personal and individual.'

A child needs to ...

- Have ideas of what to write
- Hold these ideas in their head
- Need to control a pencil or pen
- Try to get letters the right way round and the right way up
- Try to match the right sound to the right letter/s
- Keep the handwriting even and legible
- Think about word order and grammar
- Get the punctuation right
- Try and use the best words in the best place
 - And that is just a start!!

Year 1

Transcription

- Use knowledge of phonics to segment words into phonemes and then write these phonemes with appropriate graphemes
- Know names of the letters of the alphabet in order
- Know alternative spellings for the same sound e.g. ay, a - e, ai
- Know prefix un- and suffixes -ing, -ed, -er and -est
- Learn how to form letters correctly, taught in 'handwriting families'

Year 1

Composition

- Compose sentences orally prior to writing
- Write sentences in a sequence to form a short narrative
- Leave spaces between words
- Join words/sentences with 'and'
- Begin to punctuate a sentence using capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark
- Use capital letter for names of people, places, days of week and personal pronoun, I
- Re-read what they have written to check it makes sense
- Clearly read aloud their writing to an audience

Year 2

Transcription

- Spell words using their knowledge of phonics, of homophones and by making plausible attempts.
- Understand root words and how you add suffixes e.g. happy - happiness.
- Use the possessive apostrophe and use the following punctuation marks - . ! ? , and capital letter
- Form upper and lower case letters with correct, relative sizing and correct orientation
- Begin to join up when letter formation is embedded.

Year 2

Composition

- Write narratives about personal experiences and of others, write about real events, write poems and write for different purposes
- Plan what they will write about
- Re-read their work, checking the writing makes sense
- Proof read for spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors
- Read aloud their writing
- Use a range of punctuation, adjectives and conjunctions
- Use past and present tense correctly

What we do at Canon Popham

- Daily reading and writing opportunities
- ~~Extended writing opportunities in English and other subjects~~
- Frequent, discrete handwriting sessions
- Daily phonic sessions
- Daily writing opportunities
- Daily storytime
- Oral rehearsal and oral revision (before and after writing)
- Time to edit writing and improve

What we teach

- Using adventurous and wide-ranging vocabulary
- Using a clear structure to organise writing
- Using texts read as models for writing
- Sequencing events and recount them in appropriate detail
- Varying writing to suit purpose and reader
- Putting ideas into sentences - grammar and punctuation
- Having a positive, confident attitude to writing

What we do

- ~~Model - I'll show you how to do something~~
- Joint composition - now we'll have a go together
- Guided Writing - I'll support you in a small, focused group
- Independent writing - you have a go on your own

How to support your child

Spelling

- Support their knowledge of phonics and encourage them to use their phonics when segmenting and blending for spelling - say, 'Have a go'/'Use your phonics/Remember your Fred Fingers.'
- Practise spelling words from school little and often. See if you can think of other words with the focus phoneme/grapheme as an extension activity
- Teach 'tricky' words also known as Common Exception Words.
- Try to avoid 'copy writing'

How to support your child

Handwriting

- Encourage and support the correct pencil grip from an early age
- Ensure your child is sat at a table appropriately
- Make sure letters are formed correctly and are of appropriate size
- Check your child can distinguish between upper and lower case letters (use lower case first)
- Make children aware of spaces between words and the direction of print when reading to and with child

How to support your child

Composition

- Look for opportunities to write - thank you letters, diaries, shopping lists, invitations, holiday postcards
- Support homework and projects - be aware of the writing going on in the class
- Make up little books which children can write their own stories in
- Invest in a simple Thesaurus (Year 2)
- Don't be afraid to use age appropriate terminology e.g. conjunction, adjective, expanded noun phrase

Reading - Writing

- Read to and with your child on a regular basis, discussing what you have read
- Look at authors use of language, how they vary how their sentences begin, use sentences of different lengths, layout their text on a page e.t.c

Remember

- Let your child see you write
- Encourage your child to share writing tasks with you
- Provide a range of writing implements and materials
- Show interest in what your child is writing and encourage communication
- Encourage correct pencil grip and posture when writing
- Practise spellings little and often

To become writers, children need something to say, the means to say it, and a reason to say it.

If you have any questions please email your child's class teacher who will respond as quickly as they can.

- Year 1 – year1@cpa.dsat.education
- Year 2 – year2@cpa.dsat.education