Writing ideas for Parents

This booklet has been produced in response to parents' requests for ideas to help with writing at home.

We all appreciate the help and support you already provide for your children, particularly with home reading and spelling. The aim of this booklet is to provide additional ideas, which may be fun for you and your child to do together.

The ideas in the booklet have been sectioned into the three academic terms. We hope that this will encourage you to return to the booklet throughout the year. There are, of course, areas of overlap and ideas that are suggested in every year group. This is only to be expected; after all writing Christmas cards (fortunately or unfortunately…) isn't a one off activity!

While teachers won't be expected to mark any work based on ideas from the booklet, they will be delighted to see any and enjoy sharing them with the rest of the class.

Reception Year

The first stage in learning to write includes the development of manipulative skills. With this in mind we have included many ideas to help strengthen your child's hand control as well as practising their writing skills.

Autumn Term

Shopping lists
Threading-cotton reels etc.
Playdough
Write your name (lower case)
Play I spy –initial sounds
Recite Nursery Rhymes
Puzzles
Leaf rubbing
Using paper and a variety of media to draw and write
Christmas cards
Letters to Santa
Thank you letters
Write birthday cards to friends as and when needed.
When it's your birthday-
Write a party list - Who will you invite?

Spring Term

Tracing
Writing out words from the flashcard tin
Finger painting
Play silly rhyming words (cat sat rat lat zat)
Make up a rhyme for your name (Sue too, Mary fairy)
Construction toys (Duplo)
Magnetic letters to make words on fridge door
Pegging out the washing
Easter cards and Mother's Day cards
Robot talking e.g. C-A-T what's the word

Summer Term

Postcards
Father's day cards
Letter shapes in the sand
Painting
Use large paintbrush and water to write words and letters outside on the ground and walls
Make and write a sentence using words from the word tin
Go on a minibeast hunt and write names of the insects you find
Record a story

Year 1

The activities below are intended to give you some handy hints and top ideas so that you can help your child develop other skills they need to become confident writers.

Autumn

Using magnetic fridge letters to write names or make words
Learning Nursery Rhymes
Tracing, colouring in
Jigsaws, peg boards
Christmas lists
Christmas cards
Labels for presents
Name places
I spy
I went to the shop and I bought…(memory game)
Describing objects for others to guess

Spring

New Year resolutions
Thank you letters
Shopping lists
Imaginative play (shops, schools, holidays etc.)
Writing alongside parents or older brothers and sisters
Playing Spider
Labelling objects around the house
Easter cards

Summer

Cooking recipes
Reading/writing menus
Sewing
Diary/scrap book of holidays or family events
Writing messages for people
Telling jokes
Holiday lists
Postcards
Letters to friends or relative

Year Two

Now they are in Year 2 your children really need to practice their writing skills. Putting together longer, more complex pieces of writing, which can be read by others.

Autumn

Keeping a diary
Listing opposites
Describing the colours through the Autumn changes
Scary words at Halloween
Writing cards
Writing a shopping list
Christmas list
Writing questions and answers for historical events e.g. Bonfire Night
Writing a weekly calendar
Writing labels
Writing reports about football matches or other sporting events
Letters to Father Christmas
Learn anew word every week – spell it and use it
Word searches

Spring

New Year promises
Thank you letters
Use magnetic letters to leave messages on the fridge
Making up stories and taping them
Sending emails and text messages
Collecting homonyms
Writing questions and answers about the Saints- e.g. Valentine, David, George
Playing Ten Questions
Keeping a note of family events (important or funny!)

Summer

Playing Consequences and Hangman
Telling jokes
Limericks- Learning some and trying to change some of the words
Making a jobs/responsibilities list
Finding words in other words
Making words from a mix of letters (Countdown style)
Who am? – riddles
Writing post cards from holiday
Writing letters to the next class teacher, friends and family members