

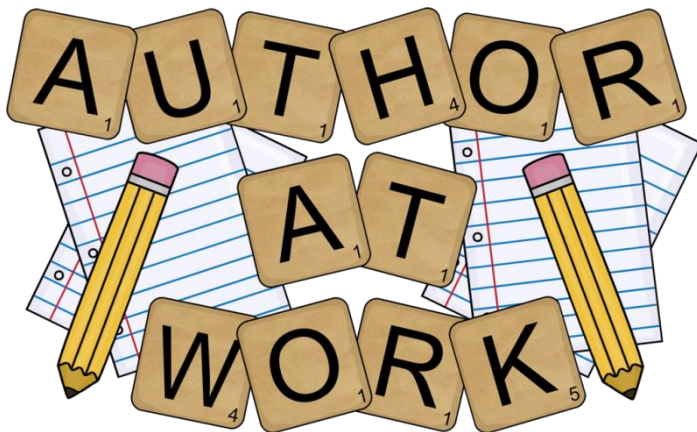
## Writing Guide for Parents.

This guide is designed to help you to understand a little more about the progression of writing your child will follow during their time at Totley All saints CE Primary School. It provides practical guidance on how you can support your child at home.

Assess of writing is now compared to Age Related expectations.

Children are assessed as:

- working AT a level that is Expected for their age group (EXS),
- working towards the expected level (WTS)
- working at Greater Depth (GD) for their year group.





# Some advice on helping your child enjoy writing.

**Writing is often just not easy.** Although some children will happily write for pure pleasure, some children find it a challenge rather than fun. For those who do find writing more difficult, how can you make writing seem more exciting?

## 1. Follow your child's interests:

Does your child like football, off-road cycling, designing clothes or playing with make-up? Whatever their interests, there are good writing opportunities. Perhaps a lockable football diary for writing match fixtures and a few private thoughts on each match as played. Use postcards or fancy writing paper for writing a short message to granny – and make sure she writes STRAIGHT back! Provide post-it stickers and encourage them to write messages to everyone ~ even the cat!

## 2. Talk comes first!

The standard of children's writing at school is not only about their handwriting. They must be able to express their ideas clearly. Can they put thoughts in order and discuss what they want to say? All of these depend on speaking. So talk to your child, encourage them to express themselves, listen and respond to their ideas.

## It all helps!



# TOP TIPS

- ✓ **DO** offer plenty of praise. Writing takes practice and perseverance, both of which are hard if you are feeling discouraged. Think of nice things to say ~

‘I love the way you’ve put that! It’s brilliant.’ Not  
‘I wish you would leave a space between your words.’



**X DON'T** bribe a child to write (or read!). When desperate to get a child to do their homework, a good bribe can seem like a simple answer. But the problem with bribery is that it gives entirely the wrong messages. Writing and reading are not things we should be bribed to do! We do them because they bring their own rewards – honestly!

✓ **DO** allow different forms of writing. Writing emails, typing messages or posting stuff on a blog are all perfectly good ways for children to express themselves in written form.

**REMEMBER** a good piece of writing is -

- well expressed and organised
- is grammatically correct
- Is enjoyable to read
- It fulfils its purpose – i.e. if it is a thank-you letter to granny, it says thank you!



# Writing at Home

## Key Stage 1

- Encourage your child to write their own name, family names, letter sounds and key words
- Explore writing with paint, chalk, misty windows etc...
- Develop their fine motor skills in controlling their bodies with care, such as making circles with their arms.
- Ask them to say and try to write simple sentences.

Encourage writing in play and what they do. For example: lists for shopping, record the results for their favourite sports team.

- Engage with their writing through:
  - saying what you liked in it.
  - asking where their ideas have come from?
  - asking them to show you where a sentence begins and ends.
- Help them to organise and sequence their writing by asking them to talk about their ideas or to draw a sequence of simple pictures to show how the main events in a story might be organised.

## Foundation Stage

- Encourage your child to write their own name, family names, letter sounds and key words
- Explore writing with paint, chalk, misty windows etc...
- Develop their fine motor skills in controlling their bodies with care, such as making circles with their arms.
- Ask them to say and try to write simple sentences.

