

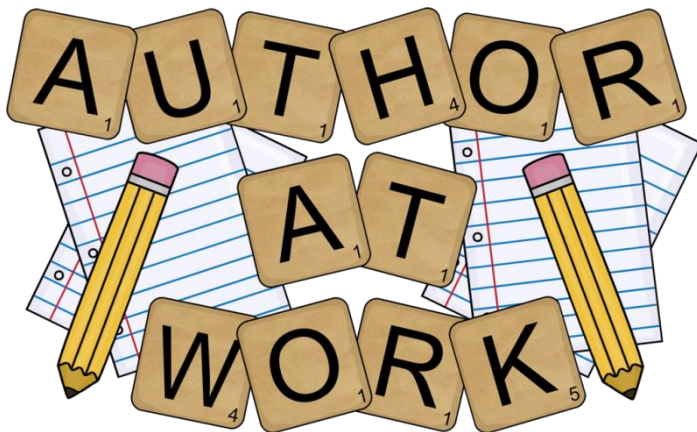
Writing Guide for Parents.

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 2

- Encourage their personal writing, for example; a journal or diary, social networking, a blog.
- Talk through their ideas with them before they start to write. For example, prompt them to think about how they intend to tackle a subject.
- Help them to reflect on their writing, particularly the effect they hoped to have on the reader, for example, is the reader sufficiently prepared for the ending?
- Encourage them to read through their work, shaping their sentences for clarity and impact and checking their accuracy.
- Encourage them to edit and improve their own writing, spotting any mistakes, in grammar or punctuation, independently- a key skill for any writer.