



Writing for Parents at KS2

Writing is an integral and fundamental part of the children's day-to-day life at Maple Grove Primary School. Everyday, children will do writing in their books and work on a range of different features, concepts and ideas when they are writing.

The aim at Maple Grove for all our writers is; to give all children, from all backgrounds and abilities equal opportunities in the classroom and ensure they learn the tools to make rapid and sustained progress in their writing.

Let your child write about what interests them, and in the genres that they most enjoy.

If your child has a particular passion for a certain subject, be it Dr Who, Disney movies, dogs or cars, let them use that as the main stimulus for their writing. They will use this stimulus to make their writing detailed, interesting and exciting. If they read more they will have a wider variety of experiences and ideas to draw upon to build up their writing skills. By encouraging your child to read more at home they will have a better understanding of how different genres work and this will build into their writing and improve it over time.

Reason to write

Give your child as many reasons and opportunities to write at home. This can be simply writing down your shopping list to getting them to write a letter to a

relative, neighbour or friend telling them about their day, what they did at the weekend or something fun that they are looking forward to. Building up a writing rapport with people is a highly motivating way to get the children interested in writing, particularly if they receive a letter in return when they have written to somebody.

Many children need to have the reason why they are doing something given to them before they do it. Contextualisation is key when getting them to write.

Other things to consider.

Ensure the children have access to the resources they need in order to do their writing at home. Make sure the child is located in an appropriate place to carry out their writing and that it is going to produce the highest standards of writing.

What could your child make at home?

Write a shopping list, make a family newspaper, make a comic, write on stickers, cut out pictures from old magazines and make a recipe book, keep a diary, write a song, fold paper into a zig zag book, make an information book using photos, drawings or cut out pictures, write words on slips of paper and rearrange into silly sentences, make a poster advertising something or listing rules, make tickets for a 'show', make a menu for your family, or write food orders, write letters or cards to real or pretend family or friends.

Skoolbo This is an excellent resources available to all the children to use to improve their spelling, grammar and punctuation through exciting and engaging quizzes and games.

Websites www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise www.dk.co.uk www.bookstart.org.uk
www.letters-and-sounds.com www.childrenslaureate.org.uk
www.poetryarchive.org www.puffin.co.uk www.sentenceplay.co.uk

What different aspects of writing do we teach?

Handwriting - Children will have regular sessions of handwriting to support them in their letter formation, presentation, pencil holding skills and writing fluency and speed. Children, when they are ready, have the opportunity to gain a pen license which allows them to write in pen during their lessons.

Grammar - Grammar is taught in order for the children to gain a good understanding of the different aspects of grammar and apply them to the written work that they do in KS2.

Spellings - Spellings are done weekly in class and, where appropriate accompany the phonics session. Children will be encouraged to apply their new found spelling knowledge to their written work across all subjects.

How do we decide what writing the children are going to be learning?

Writing genres match the curriculum map that the teachers work from, and this allows for a concise and accurate writing genre to be completed that is appropriate to topic. Throughout KS2 the children will experience a wide variety of writing genres and this will allow them to develop new skills, refine existing ones and explore writing on a wider scale. You can support your child's written work at home by encouraging them to explore their topic at home and complete their own pieces of writing that relate to it. They can use the internet, fact books, fiction books or other resources and stimuli to promote a love of writing at home.

Genres covered in Year 3, 4, 5 and Year 6 writing.

Year 3 writing genres:

Biography, descriptive writing, diary entry, explanation, instructions, letters, myths and legends, narrative, newspapers, information text, persuasion, play script, poetry, recount.

Year 4 writing genres:

Balanced argument, biography, descriptive writing, diary entry, explanation, fantasy, instructions, letters, narrative, newspapers, information text, persuasion, play script, poetry, recount.

Year 5 writing genres:

Balanced argument, biography, descriptive writing, diary entry, explanation, letters, myths and legends, narrative, newspapers, information text, persuasion, play script, poetry, recount.

Year 6 writing genres:

Biography, descriptive writing, diary entry, explanation, letters, narrative, newspapers, information text, non-chronological reports, persuasion, play script, poetry, recount.

How do you support your child at home with their writing?

- Offer your child plenty of praise for the writing they do—for some it is quite challenging and they need praise to sustain their writing.
- Allow different forms of writing, including; email, typing documents and letter writing.
- Do not become obsessed with correct spellings. More important is; Can we read it? Is it well written, with expression? Does it fit the purpose?

What key things make a good writer?

Effective writing is more than just getting your child to write. In order for them to become effective writers you can carry out some of the following activities to support their writing. Adults should:

- Discuss the writing with the child before they start writing.
- Show the child how to most effectively write, modelling all the key aspects
- Challenge a writer to improve their writing by changing their choice of words, maintaining good standards of handwriting and asking them how they can improve their writing.
- Encourage revision of their writing - Write, Read, Re-write
- Clarify any misconceptions that the child might have in their writing.
- Encourage, praise and be positive about their writing achievements when they complete it.
- Encourage your child to read their work aloud, which builds in a reading

element to the writing and allows the child to listen to the work that they have done and change, adapt and edit it where they need to.

- Remind your child that the best writers concentrate exceptionally hard on the work that they are doing and that it takes time to establish all the elements of writing.
- When the child is talking about their work, encourage creativity and a positive dialogue for all the different things that they could include in their writing.
- Make sure they are not fearful about making mistakes. Remind them that by making mistakes, this is how we learn new things, especially in writing.
- Make sure that they enjoy the writing that they are doing at home, and if they don't seek their opinion and guidance on how it would be more engaging, fun and purposeful for them.