Reception Writing Overview

What do we want children to be able to do by the end of Reception?

* Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
* Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds.
* Write some irregular common words.
* Write simple phrases and sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.
* To sit in the correct position when writing and to hold a pencil correctly.

How do we help children to achieve this?

We have daily phonic lessons where children are grouped with other children of a similar ability to them to learn the appropriate phonic phase that they need. These groups are fluid and regular assessments help us to ensure that children are in the correct phonic group for their ability throughout the whole year.

Every morning as the children come into school, the children write their name and key words. As the year progresses, children also write a sentence independently on their whiteboard too.

In Autumn One, the children take part in a daily dough disco session, to help strengthen their muscles to develop their handwriting. During the Autumn Term we wll also be

We have 2 handwriting lessons a week where children learn and practise how to form letters correctly and also work on the size and positioning of letters. Children are organised into 3 fluid groups for these lessons according to their progress in handwriting.

Children are given writing tasks to complete, either 1-1 with an adult or 2 children to 1 adult or a small group as appropriate to the children’s needs. During this task, children are taught to sit in the correct position and hold the pencil effectively. They are encouraged to plan what they are going to write, stretch out the word to hear the sounds and then write. Children are also encouraged to read their sentence back. These tasks are linked to our topic and often linked to a book. We ensure that these tasks have a strong sense of purpose and audience and include real life experiences.

Throughout our indoor and outdoor provision, there is opportunity in each learning area for children to develop their mark making and writing. There is also plenty of opportunities throughout the provision to develop the children’s gross and fine motor skills.

How can you help your child to learn to write at home?

Support your child to write their name and the key words that are sent home so the children are able to write irregular words.

Help your child to complete their homework challenge grid activities. Some of these have a writing link and this will help to develop writing skills. Remind them to always try their best, stretch out the words and work hard to form the letters carefully.

Look for other opportunities to encourage your child to write at home. Tasks such as helping to write the shopping list can do wonders to boost children’s self-confidence and ability in writing. Other tasks such as writing party invitations themselves, writing letters to family members or writing a postcard/diary after a holiday are further examples of ways to encourage writing for a purpose at home.

Ask school for individual help and advice to support your child’s writing at home when needed. We can share strategies and advice to help you overcome any challenges that you may be experiencing.