Writing!

Welcome to our termly infant newsletter about writing.

This term’s theme is…

Storytelling!

Why storytelling?

Everything is story, and stories are everywhere. They give us ways to understand our history, our present and our future. They are how we make sense of the world and ourselves.

Telling stories fosters connections with the people around us. They make us feel, think and remember.

Writing and telling stories allows children to immerse themselves in their imaginative worlds and can empower them by giving them a sense of control. It also allows children to push the boundaries of what is possible and can provide a safe space for them to reinvent and process real life events and explore different outcomes.



Only, as every writer knows, writing isn't always easy. And it doesn't come naturally to everyone. So how can we encourage children to write more? And how do we make it feel more like fun and less like homework?

How can you encourage storytelling and writing at home?

* Allow children to re-tell and re-write stories they know. This is often the best way to build their confidence and get started. Then they can start innovating the stories to make them their own.
* Have fun with it! Try inventing a story with your child, the whole family could get involved in creating a shared story. If your child to reluctant to write the story down, you could write their words down as they tell the story.
* Value the creativity of stories and free children up from the constraints of punctuation, spelling and handwriting. At home you can celebrate whatever the child writes, often a critique about spelling or scruffy writing can dampen their enthusiasm and make them reluctant to write. Ask questions about the events and characters to deepen their thinking rather than focus on the technicalities of writing.
* Telling a story is the first step to writing a story. Listening to you tell stories will give your child the language, inspiration and tools they need to get started. Make this something that is part of your daily routine. Making up a simple silly story can sometimes be more motivating for children than the ones read from a book, especially when you make them the lead character!

* Make it fun, there are no rules. Stories can be about *anything.* Try just telling as silly story about something simple like the adventures of your shoe, or the story of your day. Make it as short or as long as you like!
* Provide writing materials and perhaps set up a writing area where your child can have the resources to record their stories in writing. A range of writing materials or a few sheets of paper stapled together to make a book can be all the inspiration they need to get started.

Why not have a go at one of these challenges?

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| Challenge 1: Storybook Creation  Write and illustrate a unique story in a homemade storybook.  Challenge 2: Puppetry Tale  Make a sock puppet, create a backdrop, and perform an imaginative puppet show.  Challenge 3: Comic Strip Adventure  Craft a comic strip telling an exciting and imaginative story.  Challenge 4: Audio Storytelling  Record an audio story using imaginative narration and sound effects. |

**If you’ve written or invented a story, please bring it in to show us. We’d love to see it!**