

Year 5/6 Writing- How you can help at home

The aim in writing in Years 5 and 6 is that your child is able to reflect their knowledge and skills in grammar within their own written work.

- Your child will have a reading record book. This can be helpful for a number of reasons. Inside this booklet is a brief overview of some of the grammar your child is expected to know, including:

Modal Verbs: will, would can, could, should, might and must.

They change the meaning of other words. i.e. *We **must** do the dishes.*

Adverbials: adverbials are adverbs and groups of words used like an adverb. They are called fronted adverbials if they are at the front of a sentence. i.e. ***In half an hour**, the bus leaves.*

As you may be aware, expectations on the children to know, and use, grammar correctly has increased in recent years. The National Curriculum is available online to view. Your child may also enjoy the BBC Bitesize games available to help develop their knowledge and understanding.

- Practise joining letters with your child. They could write letters using names of their favourite star or write their own Revolting Rhyme like Roald Dahl. Make it a game – how many can they form correctly in a minute? It is important that their letter formations are clear and consistent.
- Encourage your child to use their words for that week's spellings in sentences. Challenge them to grow these sentences in to fantastic text by using adventurous adjectives.
- Ask your child to write sentences about their favourite hobby. Whether it is horse riding or karate, you can help them to write fun and informative texts that could also use interesting vocabulary specific to that area. **Remember** – at this stage it is important that the words are spelt and letters are joined. Presentation is equally important, along with correct use of capital letters and punctuation.

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Being able to read opens up huge areas of learning for children and adults alike.

- Encourage children to read as wide a variety of books and texts as they can. This can help them take in spellings and sentence formation ideas.
- Encourage your child to discover books or articles about their favourite hobbies and interests.
- If your child is a little reluctant to read, you could see if they enjoy the online comics available for free. These can be found on the sites of US comic giants that your children may be aware of through films. (But be aware of American spellings)
- Find different purposes for your child to read – if you are planning a holiday get your child to research what there is to do in the local area; are there any festivals or famous people from there?
- You could also ask your child to find information from timetables in stations or airports.
- Challenge your child to discuss a text. Could they read an online news report and give you their opinion? How is the information presented?
- Inference is key to improving understanding when reading. You can help your child by asking them to think how an author has used language. Ask your child what they think the author is trying to say and, if possible, get them to highlight where, in the text, they have got that idea from.
- Why not arrange a trip to the library? We are fortunate to have great libraries locally and in Manchester. Here children can discover a huge selection of books for free.
- Share your favourite children's book with your child. Read them a passage and ask your child to read a passage from theirs.
- Children's imaginations can be fired by a good book, brilliant author or interesting article. Find an article that interests you and discuss it with your child. "Have you read this?" could help hook their desire to read and learn more.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reading and writing are fundamental skills that your child will learn at school but should also practise at home to become confident.

Showing your child how to hold the pen correctly and join letters will aid their development in both writing and spelling.

Though development of writing happens in stages, and every child will reach these stages at different times, it is important that by the time they reach upper Key Stage Two your child is confident in applying the fundamental rules of capital letters and various punctuation.

It is also important for children to be able to read back their own writing and to edit for clarity and detail.

A key skill in reading comprehension is to be able to extract information from texts and use quotes from the same text to justify their answers in detail.

We look forward to working with you and your child.

The Upper Key Stage Two Team

Key Points To Help

Provide a suitable place for writing and reading, let your child sit at a table or somewhere with a nice flat surface.

Provide them with a variety of materials to allow them to write – paper, pens, crayons, pencils, chalk etc.

Give your child access to a range of books, comics, newspaper articles etc. These can be found in the library for free or, certainly in the case of the latter two, online.

Websites such as ‘Twinkl’ may allow you to download word mats and other grammar exercises for free.

Talk to your child about their reading and writing – ask them to tell you about their book or to read their sentences back to you.

Help to develop speaking and listening skills; encourage your child to explain things to you as clearly as possible. Question their explanation. If necessary give them a few minutes to mentally prepare. This could also apply to skills of persuasion or instructions. Only let your child watch that special TV program if they can successfully persuade you, using good persuasive language and reasoning in the time limit set.

Be positive! Lots of praise and encouragement will build confidence and help with the enjoyment of writing.

Why not challenge your child to write their own epic story. The BBC has run a 500 word writing competition. The website here has some wonderful tips and hints for budding authors. Extra inspiration can be found by your child reading some of the wonderful work of the winning children from previous years.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

a b c d e f
g h i j k l
m n o p q
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Cheadle Primary School

"We aim to be outstanding in all we do"



Supporting your child with
Reading and Writing
in
Year 5 and Year 6