



Parent Mini
Guide

The Three
Schools

Writing: KS1

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In Key Stage 1 we encourage writing across all areas of the curriculum, using a range of genres. We might write instructions in Science or a chronological report in History. Through using the Talk for Writing approach we enable children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally before reading and analysing it and then writing their own version. During this process the children go through three stages with their writing:

Imitation: Where the children begin with some engaging activities warming up the tune of the text, as well as the topic focused on, to help the children internalise the pattern of the language. A text map is learnt with actions and the children then move onto looking closely at the features of the specific genre.

Innovation: Once the children have internalised the text, they are then ready to start innovating on the pattern of the text. The key activity in this stage is shared writing, which helps the children to write their own by "doing one together" first. This allows the children to see how you can innovate on the exemplar text and select words and phrases that really work. Demonstrating how to regularly read your work aloud to see if it works is important here. This process enables the children to write their own versions through developing their ability to generate good words and phrases and also, develops the inner judge when they start to decide why one word or phrase is best.

Invention: At this stage the children independently write, using all of the tools given to them in the earlier stages. Then the children spend time editing and improving their writing. This stage begins with some activities focused on helping the children understand aspects that they were having difficulty with and includes time for the children to have a go at altering their work in the light of what they have just learnt. This stage will continue to focus on the next steps needed to support progress so the children can become independent speakers and writers of this type of text.

We use cursive handwriting throughout Key Stage 1 which means a lot of the children are fluently joining up by the middle of Year 1. This allows them to write quickly and efficiently.

When we are writing the children use a range of skills including:

- Phonic knowledge to segment words.
- Spelling key words/tricky words correctly.
- Interesting language to make writing more exciting, eg, adjectives, conjunctions.
- Punctuation
- Neat handwriting
- Editing writing

Below are list of ways you can enjoy writing at home with your children;

Christmas cards, thank you letters, emails to friends or relatives, party invitations, shopping lists, stories, poems, jokes, diaries and postcards.