

# Writing

## Year 1

## KS1 Writing

Are you wondering what your child's writing should look like in Year 1? In Year 2? Here is some information on what your child learns and how you can best support your child with their writing development.



### Handwriting

In Year 1 children are taught the most important, fundamental basic skills needed to be able to write a good sentence. In the autumn term we strip back the Year 1 writing curriculum and ensure that children have grasped the basics before moving them on.

The writing journey starts with handwriting. Children started their cursive handwriting journey in the Early Years (Nursery & Reception) and continue through the rest of their Willows education.

We use the rhyme 'on the line every time' to help the children remember that all the letters start on the line. Reminding your child about this will help them enormously.

The letters are taught in the below order and grouped together according to the formation of them.

*c a d g q r f* (over and back letters)

*l h t p b* (up and down letters)

*e*

*u y i j* (climb and slide letters)

*k* (loopy letter)

*r o w v* (join to next letter from the top)

*m n* (bouncy letters)

*x z*

(See attached rhymes that go with each letter linked to Read Write Inc approach.)

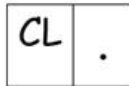
Something else to remember and remind the children about with their handwriting is that capital letters are not cursive and don't join to any other letter. Year 1 children need to be able to write capital letters correctly. Capital letters are also taller than lower case letters.

## **Punctuation**

It is important that the children use a capital letter at the beginning of their sentences, finger spaces after each word and full stops at the end of the sentence.

They do lots of work on editing sentences and finding missing capital letters and full stops.

For example;



*a little acorn fell to the ground*

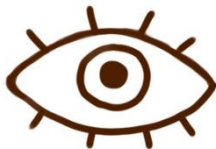
*you look tasty he said*

## **Hold a sentence**

This is a skill that we use to help the children to orally rehearse a sentence before they write it down.

Children benefit from saying a sentence out loud a number of times before writing it. Once this skill has been learnt, the children quickly become confident writers.

## **Checking for sense!**



After writing a sentence it is important that the child reads it back to make sure it makes sense. Re-reading writing often helps children spot mistakes too, such as a misspelt word, a missing capital letter or a letter formed incorrectly.

## **Adding in SPaG!**

Refer back to the SPaG workshop handout to look at different grammar that comes into the sentences. For example, adjectives, verbs, nouns and the different sentence types taught in the different year groups.

## **Fine Motor Skills**



Some children do not yet have the strength to hold a pencil correctly or hold scissors to cut accurately. It is very important that these children are given frequent opportunities to strengthen the muscles in their hands. Moulding playdough, threading beads/pasta, hanging from bars, pegging out washing, tracing and ripping paper are examples of activities that can strengthen these very important muscles.

## **Do I correct every spelling when my child is writing?**



### **No**

Help the children to identify and learn the common exception words and any words from their word cards and then encourage them to read the trickier words. If the children are using their Read Write Inc sounds then this is great! They should be able to remember some 'special friends' (see

handout)

## **Remember special friends**

(See handout)

ea oi a-e i-e ai  
o-a o-e ue  
aw are ur er  
ow ew ire ear ure

## **Writing opportunities.....**

- Write shopping lists together
- Write messages in birthday cards, Christmas cards
- Encouraging the children to write and send a postcard from on holiday
- Write messages to friends or family relatives
- Write messages on post it notes and leave them around the house for family to find
- Keep a diary book
- Write a note to a teacher (we love this 😊)
- Writing letters in bubbles/sand/snow/chalk
- Use different writing equipment – pencils, pens, paint, chalk
- Lots of praise
- Don't correct every spelling, fredding is good!