

During writing workshop 1 we discussed:

1. Top Tips on how to help your child strengthen their fingers and improve their fine motor skills at home. These are activities such as threading, dot to dot, tracing, painting, play do, sieving, cutting, finger gym.
2. Handwriting, writing on the line, letter size and how to form the letters (see the attached sheet – this is the same one that I gave out on parent's evening). Forming letters correctly will help them with their fluency in writing as they move into year 1 in September.
3. The link between reading and writing confidence/ability. The more you read the better your chance of understanding how to write to communicate. It also improves vocabulary and generates ideas for story writing. Research shows that there is a supposed link between the number of books in a house hold and "success" of the child later on in life – remember to support the local library.
4. Our daily phonic lesson now includes placing the learned sounds into written words and sentences.
5. Holding a sentence – this is a key area in Ruth Miskin's RWI phonic scheme. We encourage children to make sure that they know what they want to write (the full sentence) before they start writing. Talking tins are used for those who find this difficult at the moment.
6. What is expected at the end of the academic year.
7. Ideas for writing at home – shopping lists, signs for the bedroom door, stories to read to grandparents, invitations for tea and a play (to friends or toys), menus for favourite meals during the week, letters to friends, emails, helping to text ! Any excuse.
8. Please place any independent work onto Tapestry – we love seeing it.

Greater depth: If your child is already writing sentences independently and the writing can be understood by others then their next step is to start concentrating on how to spell words correctly, how to include different narrative features and to form letters correctly, including their relative size (e.g. a t is shorter than the other ascenders such as l,h,d).

Any questions at all about writing then please come and ask myself or a member of the Reception team.

Many thanks to those of you who attended the workshop.

Jo Bourne