

Important Dates

- Monday 13th May – Y6 SATS week.
- Monday 13th May – GCSE exams begin.
- Monday 20th May – Y2 SATS week.
- Friday 7th June – Reception Family Assembly.
- Monday 10th June – Y1 and Y2 Phonics Screening.

Primary Football



The boys should be very proud of themselves after their performance against Broadway Juniors this week. We opened up our goals for account thanks to a superbly taken penalty by Ben Worthington. Notable mentions go to Theo Woods and Owen Lavelle for playing with more confidence and expression. Ethan Alike also made an assured debut between the sticks in the second half. As always, Ben Worthington, put in a captain's performance and lead by example. Visiting coach, Chris Lindsted, who is also the manager of Sunderland Boys and chairman of the SPSFA, took time to speak to the team afterwards and congratulate them on their determination and efforts this season. Well done lads – Cadbury Twirls all round it is!

School drop off

We would like to reiterate that parents and carers should not be dropping their children off before the school gates are opened at 8:25am as they are unsupervised before this time. If you need to drop your child off at school before this time due to work commitments, we offer a breakfast club from 8:00am. This is open to both primary and secondary pupils and can be booked via Parent Pay. We thank you for your support in keeping your children safe.

Mrs Hoare – Head of Primary

Dogs on site



Can we please remind parents that no dogs should be brought on site. This includes carrying dogs. Thank you for your cooperation.

Literacy Focus

HOW TO IMPROVE WRITING SKILLS FOR YOUR CHILD:
14 EASY TIPS

Writing — it's an important form of communication and a key part of education. But in today's

technology-driven world, children aren't given many opportunities to practise and improve their ability to write outside of school. This leaves many parents

wondering how to improve their child's writing skills. It takes time to develop strong writing skills, and it can be a tough task to accomplish. Thankfully, there are many things that parents can do at home to help improve children's writing skills. From fun activities to daily reading and writing sessions, these tips on how to improve kids' writing skills will help your child build his or her skills in no time.



IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION SKILLS
WITH THESE SIMPLE AND FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES.

1. READ UP

Regular reading is a stepping stone to better writing and helps kids' strengthen their writing skills. It helps expand children's vocabulary and shows them different ways of using words. This also makes it easier for them to use these words in their own writing.

With younger children, make sure you're reading together every day and encouraging their love of reading as they grow. Start reading early—many children who devour books grow up to become strong writers themselves.

2. MAKE IT FUN!

Play games and activities that encourage writing. Crossword puzzles and word games are great for everyone. Little ones will especially like the "write the word" game: where they search for items and write down the word when they find each item.

3. CREATE WRITING WORKSHEETS

For young children just learning to write, try creating a worksheet where they can trace letters and words. Write out letters and words, place another piece of paper on top, and have your child trace onto the blank piece of paper. You can also create a connect-the-dots game by having your child trace along dotted lines and then tell you which letter or word she or he finds.

4. TRY DIFFERENT MATERIALS

Switch it up by writing with something other than a pen or pencil. Sidewalk chalk on the driveway, finger painting, or a salt writing tray are all fun writing activities that will also help build writing skills.

5. WRITE LETTERS

Today, writing letters is a bit of a lost art. Encourage your child to write letters to friends or family members. Distant family members will especially love receiving handwritten letters and it's a great way to work on improving writing skills for kids.

Pen-pals are also a fun idea, or you can even write letters to each other and leave them around the house to find!

6. ENCOURAGE JOURNALLING

Keeping a journal is a great way to express thoughts and ideas while also working on improving children's writing skills. Plan an outing to pick a fun journal with your child and encourage them to write in it as much as possible. Make it a part of his or her daily routine.

7. CREATE A WRITING SPACE

Set aside a little corner in your house that is completely devoted to writing. Having an area dedicated solely to writing will help free your child from distractions so he or she can focus on practicing writing skills.

8. INVEST TIME

Make sure your child knows you're available to help with spelling or proofreading whenever he or she needs it. When you make writing time a priority for you, it will make it easier for your child to improve his or her writing skills.

9. CONNECT THEIR INTERESTS

Think about your son or daughter's favourite book series. Or maybe he or she is obsessed with dinosaurs. Whatever his or her interests, connect them to writing. Have your child write a new short story about his or her favourite characters, or let him or her create a story all about dinosaurs.

10. CREATE STORY PROMPTS

A fun way to improve kids' creative writing skills is to have them write short stories. Cut out pictures from a magazine with different characters or locations, or write down different words. Place these in a container or glue them to cards to use as writing prompts for creating a unique story. This also makes a fun activity for the whole family to join in.

11. MODEL IT

There's no better way to learn something than to see someone else doing it. Let your children see you writing, often. When writing is a normal part of your daily life, it will come more naturally to them. Anything goes: a simple grocery list or letter to the teacher, holiday or thank you cards, or even a sweet note to your child.

12. USE TECHNOLOGY TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

There's no getting around the fact that technology plays a huge part in our lives. Use it to your advantage by having your child create a blog. This can help your child work on improving his or her writing skills by encouraging frequent writing habits.

13. MAKE IT PART OF YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

Make sure there's time each day to do some writing in one way or another. Whether it's writing a grocery list, writing in a journal or composing a letter, practicing writing every day will go a long way to improving your child's writing skills.

14. PRAISE THEIR WORK

Show lots of interest in your child's writing and stories. Ask questions, celebrate when he or she brings home a good piece from school, and encourage his or her writing as much as possible.

IMPROVING WRITING SKILLS CAN BE FUN

Writing is an important practical life skill. While developing great writing skills requires lots of time and patience, you can help your child with these simple writing exercises.

Lots of reading, frequent writing time in a special writing area, and incorporating fun writing activities and games will all go a long way to giving writing skills a boost.