

**Crestwood Park  
Primary School**



**Helping your child  
with writing.**



## Key Stage 1.

- ◆ Encourage children to sit at a table, holding a pen/pencil comfortably and correctly. We do not want writing to be seen as a chore! It is therefore a good idea to buy a special book or a special pen for children to use for their writing at home.
- ◆ When writing a sentence encourage your child to say it out loud first several times. (Think it– say it– write it--- check it)
- ◆ After writing any sentences re-read it back to check it makes sense.
- ◆ Write sentences to describe main characters– their looks, the way they dress, the way they talk.
- ◆ Practise writing lists of words to describe characters from books they are reading. Can they collect lots of similar words eg– cross, angry, cruel, mad.
- ◆ Write about real events, television programmes, famous people– anything your child is interested in! Choose an image/photograph/picture your child is interested in and write about it!
- ◆ Explain that we need to see capital letters at the start of every sentence. Practise writing the alphabet in both lower and upper case letters. We also use capital letters for names (proper nouns) draw children’s attention to the use of these around the environment– on signs etc
- ◆ When visiting places, collect leaflets, handouts and fliers. Then use these for children to use to create their own versions!
- ◆ Use a thesaurus– pick a descriptive word from a text , write it down and then using the thesaurus, write down five synonyms (similar words) and five antonyms (opposite words).
- ◆ Take the lead from any homework activities set in school. If your child comes home with a task linking to a specific spelling pattern, encourage him/her to find even more words with this spelling and write them in their own sentences.
- ◆ Look at the ‘Writing Skills’ section that was part of: The New National Curriculum. A Guide For Parents. These were handed out at Parents Evening. Also refer to the handwriting script used by school to ensure your child is forming letters correctly.

In school we talk about:

V C O P

We want to see evidence of all elements of VCOP within children’s written work.

**V** stands for **vocabulary.**

We want the children to develop their use of language. If they write the word ‘good’ we encourage them to use a more improved alternative– for example: wonderful, marvellous, extraordinary, fabulous, astonishing, incredible, superb, astounding. We sometimes refer to these words as ‘wow’ words. We also ‘magpie’ (steal) words from texts to use in our writing.

**C** stands for **connectives.**

These are the words we use to link and extend sentences. Examples of connectives are: and, but, so, because, after, furthermore, although, therefore, however, meanwhile, consequently.

**O** stands for **openers.**

We want children to begin each sentence with a different word. To avoid using ‘The’ too often we encourage children to start a sentence with a connective, adjective or adverb

**P** stands for **punctuation.**

The pyramid on the back of this leaflet shows the types of punctuation children need to use when writing. At the top, the pyramid shows the punctuation needed in early writing. The pyramid then progresses and the bottom level shows all of the punctuation we expect a child to use by Year 6.