

Writing



The Merton Primary School
To be the best we can be.

Writing is an essential part of our curriculum and we provide lots of wonderful opportunities to inspire pupils, which makes sure they enjoy writing. Children are given a breadth of purposeful writing opportunities and, where appropriate, these writing opportunities are linked to our curriculum topics.

At the beginning of their writing journey, children learn how to hold a pencil properly and begin to form letters, words and sentences and, throughout their time at The Merton, move on to applying the wealth of skills learnt in their weekly grammar, spelling and punctuation lessons to independently write for a range of purposes and audiences using different genres. Learners are encouraged to draw upon their rich reading experiences and, within writing lessons, time will be given to allow children to look at successful examples of writing.

One approach to writing we use at The Merton Primary school is Talk for Writing. We want all our children to develop into creative writers and it is through the Talk for Writing approach that we believe we can achieve this. Through its multi-sensory and interactive teaching it enables children of all ages and abilities to learn to write a wide range of story/text types using various methods. Talk for Writing starts with enjoying and sharing stories. Throughout the school we place a strong emphasis on children reading stories and enjoying a range of literature. Through regular reading, we want children to build up a rich and extensive vocabulary for their own writing. During the initial 'imitation' stage of Talk for Writing children learn to tell a story off by heart. They retell a story with expression and actions and use a story map to support their retelling of the story. Once the story is learnt the children are encouraged to adapt it, this is the 'innovation' stage where they make the story their own, for example changing the setting or character. The final stage is the 'invention', this is where the children write their own text independently.



Handwriting

Pre cursive letter formation is taught from EYFS with cursive handwriting being explicitly taught across the school. High standards of handwriting and presentation are promoted and designated handwriting sessions are planned in. We use letter join to support the correct formation of the letter shapes.

Letter-join 

Spelling

At The Merton, spelling remains high profile and targeted spelling sessions are timetabled in weekly across the whole school, these sessions are supported by the *No Nonsense* spelling scheme. During these sessions, children are given the opportunity to learn about, and explore, the spelling conventions, patterns, rules and exceptions, alongside the statutory words for their appropriate year group, as outlined by the National Curriculum. Children are also given time to learn strategies to support their spelling and to work on their own, personal, spelling lists. Spellings will also form part of the children's weekly homework across the school.

