

# LITERACY

**Being able to  
read, write, speak and listen**

**the key**

**to effective communication  
and future success**

This leaflet offers practical advice on developing literacy at home

**Tutor**

**English  
Teacher**

# School Work at Home

Your child will be set regular tasks to complete at home that will appear in their Student Diary. Like their Tutor, please check their diary as regularly as you can. If you have concerns, contact your child's tutor.

## Discussion

Getting your child to discuss their work and what they have to do is the first step in giving support and building confidence.

Research shows that regular opportunities for one-to-one discussion of work are of great benefit to children's learning.

## Reading

KOA uses the Accelerated Reader Scheme. This directs pupils towards real books at a level they will enjoy and which will develop them as readers. Pupils are set regular reading homework.

If your child needs help with their reading:

There is value in just being a passive listener but if your child is very reluctant, offer paired reading – ie. you both read aloud together.

### Before reading

Discuss what has happened in the story and what might happen next. Talk about the characters, setting and events.

### While your child reads to you

- If your child hesitates for more than five seconds, tell them the word.
- Use punctuation to read with meaning.
- Allow time to look at the pictures.
- Make this a happy time together.
- Make a note of pages read on progress sheet or use a bookmark and praise.

You can check on your child's progress by logging on to:

<https://ukhosted16.renlearn.co.uk/2233191/HomeConnect/>

It will then ask you for a Username and Password

eg. If your child's name is John Smith

User name: JSmit

Password: JS

If you want to choose a suitable book for your child to read or borrow from your local library have a look at: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk>

# Presentation

The school has clear rules about presentation and we expect pupils to come to school with a pen, pencil and ruler

## At home

- Is your child using a ruler?
- Using a pen that shows off their handwriting to good effect?
- Taking care with their presentation?

The English Department has a lot of useful materials to help with handwriting. If your child has a genuine handwriting problem, contact their English teacher.

# Writing

A successful piece of writing will use varied sentence lengths, and interesting vocabulary.

Encourage the use of a dictionary, which will help with the meaning of words and a thesaurus which will give adventurous alternatives.

Encourage your child to take care with and check their spelling but do not make an issue of it while they are doing extended writing.

# Punctuation

Capital letters, full stops and commas help us to make sense of text and are really important both for reading and for writing.

- When your son or daughter has finished a piece of writing get them into the habit of checking their work for punctuation and spelling.
- (Get your child to read it back to you – pausing where the sense demands it. Remind them that there should be a full stop or a comma there.)

## To learn spellings

Use the “LOOK-SAY-COVER-WRITE-CHECK” method – the child looks at the word carefully, says it, covers it up, writes down the spelling and then checks. If there is a mistake, identify the misspelt part of the word and work on it by highlighting it, spelling it out several times and then repeat the look-say-cover-write-check method again.

- Test your child if you have time.
- Keep a list of commonly misspelt words.

# Homophones

Some words sound the same, but have different meanings according to how they are spelt and your child may find these confusing. It is helpful to learn and practise these in sentences which make the meaning clear.

E.g. You wear clothes.

You wonder where your socks are.

You know that they were in the airing cupboard.

- Hear/here
- Buy/bye/by
- For/four
- Our/hour/are
- To/two/too
- Wear/where/were
- Your/you're
- There/their/they're
- Know/no

## In Summary

There are many ways in which you can help your child with their reading, writing and speaking.

The most valuable activities might be:

- Hear them read.
- Discussing their reading.
- Discuss everyday experiences and choices.
- Talk about a films/TV programmes.
- Read and discuss newspaper/magazine articles.
- Work on spelling errors.
- Play games that develop vocabulary.

If homework has become a battleground, is rushed or taking too long, let your child's teacher or tutor know. School offers a homework club after school where some of these issues can be resolved.

