

Tips to encourage writing at home

- Get a notepad for your child to write or draw in when you're out and about.
- Make maps for example, your journey to and from school or a treasure map.
- Help your child to write words for pictures and compile them into a book.
- Do word jigsaws with your child.
- Help your child to make masks and hats so they can act out stories they know.
- Write party invitations together or play cafes, your child could write the menu and take orders!
- To help with fine motor skills you could show your child how to use tools such as screwdrivers and spanners or make a fan by folding paper into a concertina.
- Set up suitable computer games to improve mouse control.

How to spell words phonetically

It is essential that the children pronounce the letter sounds carefully so they will be able to segment and blend words for reading and spelling.

Please see the link below for how to pronounce the sounds that are taught in school.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s

Contact with Staff

If you wish to speak to us about your child's learning, your first point of contact is your child's class teacher.

admin@greatwaltham.essex.sch.uk



Great Waltham Church of England Primary School **Writing Information Booklet for EYFS**

Our EYFS curriculum

Our teaching follows the expectations set out in the 'Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage'. The teaching in our EYFS class ensures a secure foundation of learning for the children. Lessons provide clear learning and development opportunities for each child, accounting for the fact that each child learns and develops at different rates.

English lessons in EYFS have a high emphasis on reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems. We provide them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new vocabulary in a range of contexts.

The children follow the Anima Phonics Scheme, providing the children with a foundation of phonics knowledge supporting them as they become competent early readers and writers.



What is phonics?

There are 26 letters in the alphabet and each letter has its own 'sound'. For example: 'p as in pig' and 'a as in apple'. However, there are more than 26 'sounds' in English – there are 44 in fact! A digraph uses two letters to make a sound. In Anima Phonics, most digraphs are coloured green to make the sounds easier to identify.

Why do we learn phonics?

Children need a clear and consistent method to use when reading and writing. Learning to read with phonics is much easier and simpler than trying to memorise thousands of words. Decades of research tells us that teaching children the phonics 'code' is the quickest way to unlocking the English language.

Phonics Glossary

- **Phoneme** - A sound that is said aloud.
- **Blending** - Involves looking at a written word and merging the phonemes together to make a word. This is the basis of reading.
- **Grapheme** - A sound that is written.
- **Segmenting** - This involves splitting a word up into phonemes and writing the matching graphemes on the page. This is the basis of spelling.



How can you support your child's learning at home?

Make reading part of your daily routine - children who read at home, even just for a few minutes each day, make really noticeable progress compared to those who do not.

No distractions - find a quiet place to read aloud together, asking your child to help out if they know any sounds.

Practising sounds and actions – following how they are taught in school is one of the best ways to support your child in reading and then writing. Talk about what they are reading – talk before, during and after reading a book. Talk, talk, talk!

Forget the alphabet (for now) – whilst it is tempting to use the names of the letters, this does not help your child when trying to read a word. Only refer to the sounds the letters make.

Identify tricky words – Before reading with your child, identify any tricky words that might be difficult, so that they have confidence when they see the word in the book.

Be patient – give your child time to decipher words. Encourage your child to point a finger at each sound and then slide their finger along the word to blend the sounds together.

