

**At BJCFPS, we believe that every child is a writer. One of our priorities for this academic year is to improve writing across the whole school. Below is a list of activities to engage your children with writing at home.**

### **Early Writing Activities**

1. Encourage children to look for print in their environment – road signs, food packets, shops, catalogues etc.
2. Try activities to develop fine motor skills e.g. cutting, using playdough, using tweezers, using clothes pegs, tracing.
3. Use a chalkboard to write family messages on.
4. Make labels for things around the house.
5. Write a shopping list – real or imaginary! Or any other sort of list.
6. Letter formation – practise forming letters using paint, in sand, using play dough or pastry.
7. Let your child write their own birthday cards to people.
8. Use magnetic letters – your child can leave a message on the fridge.
9. Encourage and praise early squiggles and marks which show your child is beginning to understand writing.

### **Improving Writers**

1. Write party invitations.
2. Encourage children to write thank you letters after birthdays..
3. Write postcards when on holiday.
4. Write a menu for a family meal or party.
5. Make a scrapbook with labels and captions – maybe after a holiday or special event.
6. Write short stories involving the adventures of their favourite toys.
7. Write an information leaflet about something they find interesting eg. cars, sports etc.
8. Write a letter to a favourite author.
9. Invent and write rules for the house, bedroom etc. and put on a poster
10. Draw, label and explain their own inventions. Make up silly sentences and tongue twisters.

### **More confident writers**

1. Write a secret diary.
2. Make up song lyrics.
3. Plan their own party.
4. Write a story for a younger family member, in the style of their favourite book.
5. Write a holiday journal.
6. Write a recipe.
7. Produce their own comic (comicmaster.org.uk)
8. Write to the local newspaper about a local issue they feel strongly about or even to the local MP.
9. Talk to different generations of family about their life and compile a family history.
10. Make up jokes.

It's also an incentive to write if there is a range of exciting writing materials available – pencils, crayons, felt tips, sparkly pens, writing icings, writing soaps for bath time, coloured papers, different shapes and sizes of paper etc.

