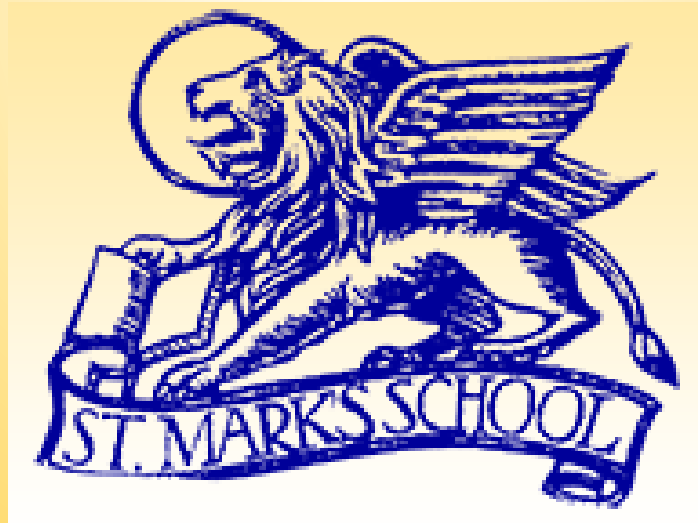


Writing Workshop.





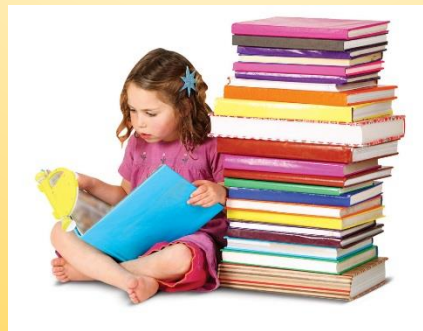
The purpose of this workshop:

- To understand how we teach writing here at St. Mark's.
- To know how we teach some of the technical aspects of writing.
- To give you some practical ideas about how you can support your children at home with their writing.



Time to reflect

- ‘If you want to be a writer you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot.’ *Stephen King*
- The most proficient writers in any class are usually the readers’.
- ‘We need to stimulate an interest in words and sentences because they lie at the root of all writing’.



The success of children's ability to write is based on:



- A rich talking environment.
- Experience of many stories that have been read to them.
- Being able to join in with stories and adding their own ideas.
- Practising and developing their own story language - 'talking like a book'.
- A range of engaging speaking and listening activities, including drama.





What we do at St Mark's:

- Daily reading and writing opportunities.
- Extended writing opportunities in English and other subjects.
- Frequent, handwriting sessions.
- Daily writing opportunities.
- Explore a large range of texts.
- Talk for Writing (oral rehearsal and oral revision).
- Time to up-level previous writing and improve.





What we teach:

- Using adventurous and wide-ranging **vocabulary**.
- Using a clear **structure** to organise writing.
- Using texts read as **models** for writing.
- **Sequencing** events and recount them in appropriate detail.
- Varying writing to suit **purpose** and **reader**.
- Putting ideas into sentences – **grammar** and **punctuation**.
- Having a **positive, confident attitude** to writing.

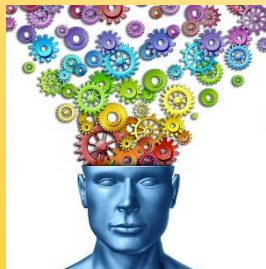


What you
can do



Remind your child:

- Encourage your child to read what they've written out loud.
- Keep self-image high and positive.
- Creativity matters because it makes us all feel special.
- Abandon your fear – fear is the enemy of creativity.
- Children should enjoy writing!





Create a literature-rich, word loving home.

- Visit the library.
- Read aloud and listen to audiobooks together.
- Encourage independent audiobook-listening if your child can't yet read, or doesn't enjoy reading.
- Have deep discussions about books and films—not based on someone else's "comprehension questions," but on your own wonderings.
- Tell stories. Read and recite poetry. Engage in word play: rhyming games, puns and riddles.
- Talk about what interests them and point out expressive language!
- Make the distinction between learning to form letters and spell words are not the same skills as developing a voice as a writer!



Remember

- You can't write a story unless you can tell a story.
- You can't tell a story unless you have heard a story





Help your child find meaningful, authentic reasons to write.

- Generally, we write to communicate with others. We write to connect.
- Find real writing opportunities that engage your child and invite responses e.g. letters and e-mails, invitations, shopping lists etc.
- Let your child write about what interests them, and in genres that they enjoy.





To become writers,
children need
something to say, the
means to say it, and a
reason to say it.