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**Headteacher:** Mr. I. Johnson (Hons) NPQH

To all Parents/Carers,

27/4/18

This week has been a bit of a writing frenzy and most classes have been focusing on different types of genre. I've seen persuasive writing, letters and some really creative stories; I have been hugely impressed!

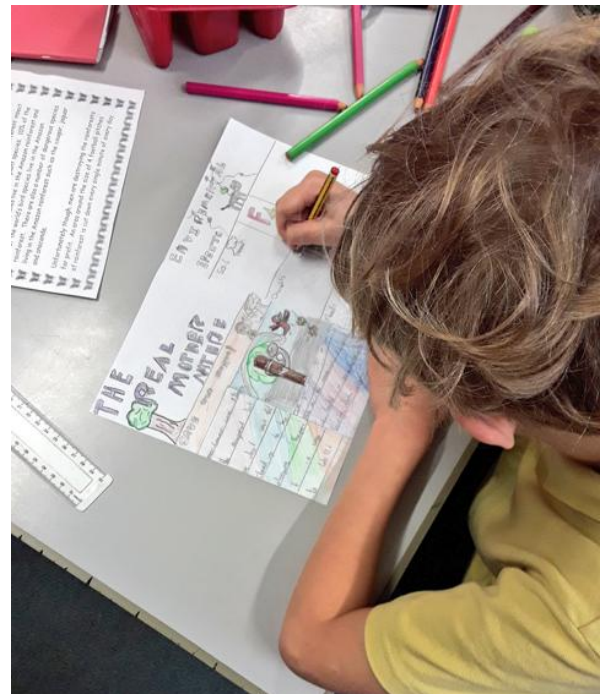
Writing, like no other subject in the curriculum, seems to divide levels of enthusiasm and enjoyment. Some children really enjoy it and can't wait to put pen to paper and some children struggle with certain aspects. Some children may even have difficulties with their pencil grip or how to join their handwriting. And, like in lots of other schools, we are often asked 'what is the best way to help my child with their writing?'

In truth there is no one specific answer to this question but I am firm believer that a healthy interest in books and reading, whether it be stories, the newspaper or a menu in a restaurant, leads to a healthy interest in writing. It also helps children to see the purpose in writing and in an ever increasing world of tablets, iphones and laptops, this can sometimes become a little blurred.

Something we work on in school is fine motor skill development which can make writing easier. This might include picking up small objects with tweezers in Early Years or Physical Literacy in Y3 – Y6. Quite often an incorrect pencil grip can make writing uncomfortable so getting the basics right as soon as possible is very important.

As mentioned in previous Weekly Words, Fiona Lingard (Reading and Writing Consultant in Derby City) will be hosting a writing session for all Parents/Carers on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 3:40pm. She will talk about how to support your child at home and other useful hints and tips which can help children become more engaged with writing. Make sure you attend as she is very very good!

In other news, we have recently been informed that the school will be receiving a pot of funding from the soft drinks levy introduced by the Government last year. It might not be the biggest pot in the world but we have to spend it on something which will improve the physical well-being of children at Markeaton. At the moment we are just discussing a few ideas but watch this space for more information. We will be asking the children for their input too.



Have a good weekend,  
Mr I. Johnson

Snowdon Sponsor Page (3 weeks to go!)

<https://www.sponsorme.co.uk/ianjohnson/markeaton-midnight-snowdon-challenge.aspx>