

# Writing Tips

Opportunities to support your child's writing outside of school can be hard to find. However, there remain several occasions throughout the year where opportunities to encourage and practise writing might occur, for example:

- Writing "thank you" letters
- Completing application forms for part time jobs or work experience
- E-mails to individuals and institutions as part of school research
- Christmas cards / letters
- Diary writing
- Blogging
- Preparing a C.V.

Concerns regarding spelling are often raised by parents. To support spelling:

- Search for "spelling games" on the internet. The web hosts a wide range of flash-based spelling games that might make learning spellings a little more entertaining (the BBC site currently hosts a range of these)
- Draw attention to incorrect spelling (and punctuation) in newspapers, shops and advertisements
- Avoid criticising incorrect but plausible spellings (i.e. "nife" is an incorrect spelling of "knife", but the spelling does show that the student is attempting to apply spelling rules logically).
- Play word games such as crosswords, Scrabble and Boggle (similar games are readily available on-line and on social networking sites, too)
- Learn groups of spellings with similar patterns, i.e. "knight", "flight", "right", "sight" all contain "igh". *Find example lists here.*

