



English book activities

At Billingshurst Primary School, we have two books which we use to support the development of our writers. Our **Writing Book**, and our **Writer's Journal**.

Writer's Journal – this book is where our writers record their ideas, thoughts and plans, as well as experiment with new language, grammatical techniques. They also use this book to design characters, settings and plan their work. **Note-taking is to be encouraged throughout the writing process.**

"It is a matter of considerable regret that I have already lost too much by losing, or rather by not having acquired, the note-taking habit." Henry James, 1881

Although a journal, these books are to be treasured and the work should still be presented to a high standard. A short date is all that is required, and children can title their work as they see fit, if at all. Where underlined, this should still be using a ruler and adhering to the presentation policy. Sketches and drawings should be high-quality and supportive to the development of ideas.

Teachers will have their own journal and regularly model good practice, as well as celebrate examples.

Activities that appear in the **Journal**.

- Word banks (provided by teachers and developed by the children)
- Word-level and sentence level activities
- Guided practice of new grammatical techniques (in the context of the current writing unit)
- Planning writing
- Note-taking from stimulus
- Magpied words and phrases
- Designing and annotating characters and settings, including drawings and vocabulary
- Toolbox for current unit of work

Children are encouraged to sensibly select lined pages for written tasks and to organise their page so they can make use of the lines. Teachers will model and discuss this with children so they can make their own, informed choices.

Writing Book – the book for more sustained pieces of writing that have been drafted and redrafted following an exciting stimulus, and/or careful research and planning.

Must contain the date (long from Y2 onward) and a clear learning objective (Matching the purposive, children's objective from the planning).

Standards of presentation and handwriting should be excellent throughout, in line with the school presentation policy.

Activities that appear in the **Writing Book**:

- Short-burst writing activities to embed teaching of new concepts
- Drafts of pieces of extended writing (the planned project of a unit of work)
- Redrafts of either of the above writing opportunities.

When redrafting, the children simply write the heading 'Redraft' (underlines with pencil and a ruler) and write again.

Editing is in red pen, but where this becomes extensive, redrafting will be necessary.