

# St Thomas CE Primary School



**ST THOMAS**  
**CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## Ways to support your child's learning at home.

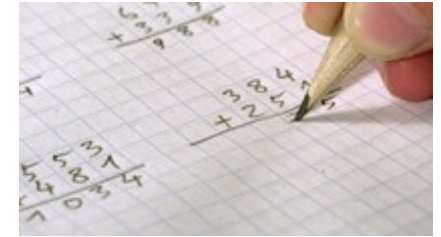


At times during their education your child may need extra support to ensure they are working at their expected level/ stage, as well as making the progress they should. We are working hard at school to ensure this happens but really would appreciate your support at home to help give your child that extra boost.

This booklet will provide you with ideas of how to support your child's learning in Writing, Reading and Maths.

### Helping your child with maths

As with reading, try to make maths as much fun as possible - games, puzzles and jigsaws are a great way to start. It's also important to show how we use maths skills in our everyday lives and to involve your child in this.



Identifying problems and solving them can also help your child develop maths skills. If you see him or her puzzling over something, talk about the problem and try to work out the solution together. Don't shy away from maths if you didn't like it at school. Try to find new ways to enjoy the subject with your child. Please take a look at the schools 'Calculation Policy' if you are unsure of which method/s to use when solving calculations together.

Tips for helping your child to enjoy maths:

- Point out the different shapes to be found around your home (2D and 3D).
- Take your child shopping and talk about the quantities of anything you buy.
- Let your child handle money and work out how much things cost and how much change is required.
- Look together for numbers on street signs and car registration plates.

Visit these websites together;

DB Primary– Blogging, Forums, competitions (link through St Thomas website)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/)

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/>

<http://www.atschool.co.uk/>





## Helping your child with Writing

When faced with a writing task your child will benefit from some discussion of the topic/task before writing ('Talk for Writing'). Try to ensure that they have a clear understanding of the task set.

They should know:

- The form of the writing (e.g. report, letter, poem, story).
- The purpose of the writing (e.g. to inform, persuade, discuss).
- If they should have a certain kind of reader in mind (e.g. a younger person).

Writers will often find it helpful to talk through their ideas, and you can prompt some more by asking questions. You may be able to suggest some further useful information.

Before writing you can:

- Ask your son/daughter how they would like to plan their writing e.g. spider diagram, bullet points or whatever their chosen style of planning is.
- Encourage them to get started. Developing writers may need plenty of encouragement, so show a lot of interest in the topic and confidence in their ability.

During writing you can:

- Suggest they could join some sentences together. Ask how that could be done.
- Ask them to think if they could improve certain sentences by choosing a more powerful word.

After writing you can:

- Suggest, if necessary, that they could add more detail. Help them to think of more detail by asking questions.
- Use plenty of praise, focusing particularly on specific parts of the writing where they have made progress.
- Help them to check spelling. Where there are errors in commonly used words, discuss an idea for how they could remember these words in future.
- Point out a particular word that they have chosen and praise it because it is either precise or has a powerful impact.

**Please help your child with their 'Big Talk' homework weekly. This will give them ideas for their 'Big Write' and the confidence to do well.**



## Helping your child with Reading

Reading with your child is vital. Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it every day. When they can read well, don't stop listening to them, just talk more about the book

Think of ways to make reading fun - you want your child to learn how pleasurable books can be. If you're both enjoying talking about the content of a particular page, linger over it for as long as you like.

Books aren't just about reading the words on the page, they can also present new ideas and topics for you and your child to discuss.

Tips for helping your child to enjoy books:

- Visit the library as often as possible - take out CDs and DVDs as well as books.
- Schedule a regular time for reading - perhaps when you get home from school or just before bed.
- Buy dual-language books if English isn't your family's first language - you can talk about books and stories, and develop a love for them, in any language.
- Look for books on topics that you know your child is interested in - maybe dragons, insects, cookery or a certain sport.
- Make sure that children's books are easily accessible in different rooms around your house
- Ask lots of questions about what they have read- whys', how's, where's, when's and what's! (Questions in front of home-school readers or ask at school for more support).