

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Children

Good afternoon. I hope you have had a good week as we start the new term learning at home. The weather continues to be lovely and sunny which is great. We are lucky that we have places we can walk and get some fresh air around us. We all continue to think about you each day and hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I hope you have had chance to read my other letters. If not there are copies are on the website - <http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/coronavirus-updates/>

## Learning at Home

I hope your home learning is going well. The most important thing is to keep busy and focused. I hope that the ideas from school are helping. If you have your own projects this is fine.

It is really important you listen to your parents and do your best to keep to your family routine and any rules you have agreed.

Remember to have breaks and to get fresh air and exercise each day.

We are lucky to be surrounded by wonderful countryside that is farmed and nurtured in many different ways. Why not take some time while you are learning at home to find out a little more about agriculture and farming.

The Farmers Guardian website <https://www.fginsight.com/fg-kids> has some interesting clips and articles as well as activities to try.

# Farmers Guardian



Here at Farmers Guardian we want to provide fun, educational activities for children of all ages. Our FG kids hub will be a place for children to learn about farming and the agricultural industry.

We will provide fun activities to complete and competitions to partake in, plus educational videos from farmers on the ground to learn about the many different aspects of agriculture.

# Write On – Writing Journals

Our learning at home gives you the ideal chance to spend some quality time on your writing in your writing journals. Remember this writing can be about anything you like in any style you like.

## Writing Journals

We have been really impressed with many children's desire and motivation to continue their writing outside of school. Many have particularly enjoyed being able to write with creativity and freedom, choosing the content and style of writing for themselves. We are delighted if they want to share this writing with us. To assist with children continuing this great habit, we are pleased to let you know we are happy to provide each child with a writing journal for them to use at home.

Children can personalise their journal by backing (wrapping it) with wrapping paper or making their own front cover.

The ideas provided (across) are designed to assist and guide. They are there as suggestions only and do not represent a prescribed list of expected pieces of writing to be handed in at a set time.

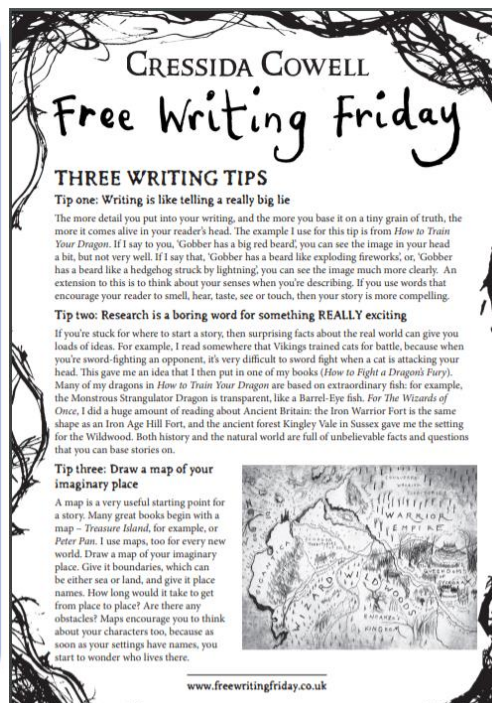
## Top tips for enjoying your writing

- Read, read and read some more! So many of your ideas will come from what you read, hear and see.
- Write often, daily if you can, about anything you want to! It is all good practice.
- Write where you are most comfortable.
- Be confident in yourself and cross out or rewrite sections if you need to – you will get there in the end and it will be even better than when you first started.
- Ask for help if you need it. Talking your ideas through can sometimes help to get your writing straight in your mind.
- Remember, your writing journal is for YOU. It is up to you if you want to share your writing. What matters is that it is a place for ideas and for FUN!

For more writing 'top tips' from authors, please visit the homework section on our school website:

<http://www.tallfoot.n-yorks.sch.uk/curriculum/homework/>

<http://spotforth.n-yorks.sch.uk/curriculum/homework/>



**CRESSIDA COWELL**  
**Free Writing Friday**

**THREE WRITING TIPS**

**Tip one: Writing is like telling a really big lie**  
The more detail you put into your writing, and the more you base it on a tiny grain of truth, the more it comes alive in your reader's head. The example I use for this tip is from *How to Train Your Dragon*. If I say to you, 'Gobber has a big red beard', you can see the image in your head a bit, but not very well. If I say that, 'Gobber has a beard like exploding fireworks', or, 'Gobber has a beard like a hedgehog struck by lightning', you can see the image much more clearly. An extension to this is to think about your senses when you're describing. If you use words that encourage your reader to smell, hear, taste, see or touch, then your story is more compelling.

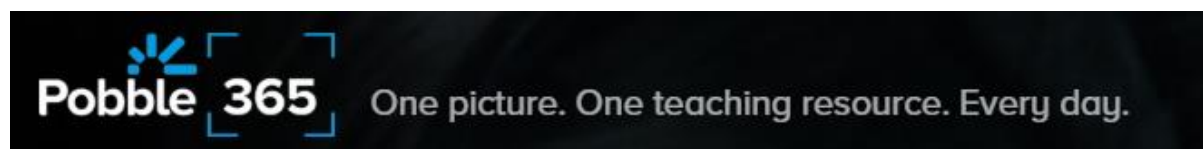
**Tip two: Research is a boring word for something REALLY exciting**  
If you're stuck for where to start a story, then surprising facts about the real world can give you loads of ideas. For example, I read somewhere that Vikings trained cats for battle, because when you're sword-fighting an opponent, it's very difficult to sword fight when a cat is attacking your head. This gave me an idea that I then put in one of my books (*How to Fight a Dragon's Fury*). Many of my dragons in *How to Train Your Dragon* are based on extraordinary fish: for example, the Monstrous Strangler Dragon is transparent, like a Barrel-Eye fish. For *The Wizards of Once*, I did a huge amount of reading about Ancient Britain: the Iron Warrior Fort is the same shape as an Iron Age Hill Fort, and the ancient forest Kingley Vale in Sussex gave me the setting for the Wildwood. Both history and the natural world are full of unbelievable facts and questions that you can base stories on.

**Tip three: Draw a map of your imaginary place**  
A map is a very useful starting point for a story. Many great books begin with a map – *Treasure Island*, for example, or *Peter Pan*. I use maps, too, for every new world. Draw a map of your imaginary place. Give it boundaries, which can be either sea or land, and give it place names. How long would it take to get from place to place? Are there any obstacles? Maps encourage you to think about your characters too, because as soon as your settings have names, you start to wonder who lives there.

[www.freewritingfriday.co.uk](http://www.freewritingfriday.co.uk)

## Writing Ideas

There are some great ideas at Pobble365 - <https://www.pobble365.com/>



You might also take inspiration from a photo or picture. I have put a couple below.



Remember you could write anything you like. It could be a poem, song, story, report, set of instructions.

## Hand Washing



My friend sent me this picture the other day and it made me smile. It also reminded me of how important the handwashing advice still is as it helps prevent germs spreading.

Perhaps you could have a go at making a poster, poem, song, video, picture or model to help remind everyone of this important information. You can send them to me if you would like to.

There is lots of information including really good handwashing advice on the e-Bug Junior website -

<https://e-bug.eu/homepage.html?level=junior>





## Challenges & Fundraising



I know how kind you are and many of you are often telling me about charities you support and how we can do so. We always enjoying our fundraising activities in school.

This Sunday should have been the London Marathon which is one of the biggest global sporting events. It is also an event that raises millions of pounds for many different charities. The marathon has been postponed till later in the year but to mark what would have been the marathon day many charities have come together to create the 26 or 2.6 challenge - <https://www.twopointsixchallenge.co.uk/>

Perhaps you could come up with your own 26 or 2.6 challenge. This could be just for fun or you might like to fundraise as well. It is up to you. Why not send us a photo of what you get up to.

### And finally.....

Sometimes when things go on for a while, we count down the days until they happen or until something is over or finished. Rather than thinking about counting the days why not thinking about making each day count doing something kind, surprising or inspiring each day.



Keep taking care of yourselves and each other. I will write again soon.

Best wishes.

Mr Griffiths