

Here is some guidance (and top tips) for when your child is writing independently in year 1:

- We use a talk for writing approach where the children rehearse the sentences before writing them. When it comes to writing them, get your children to orally rehearse, one sentence at a time.
- Encourage the use of capital letters, full stops and finger spaces at all times.
- Allow your child to make a decision for themselves. For example, "how do I spell day?" well it's d ay but think carefully about which ay sound comes at the end of the word (using their phonics knowledge)
- Encourage them to use the sound mat if they are unsure of which sound or which letters make up the sound.
- Encourage them to use the tricky word mat - I would normally point to the correct column and say "I think it is in this section here".
- If your child is struggling with spelling, encourage them to sound it out and use the sounds that they know. By the end of year one they are only expected to spell phonetically - getting it correct is a bonus!
- The more you read together, the more familiar children will become with correct spellings of words.
- A bag of patience and encouragement is needed at all times - I know it can be frustrating, however the end result they can look back and be so proud of what they have achieved!

Please remember - not all of the writing needs to be independent but we are building that up over the year. If they write one amazing sentence with all of the things needed, then that is a success!