



23 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are all keeping safe and well in these very strange and uncertain times.

To celebrate National Writing Day 2020 on Wednesday 24 June, we would like you to help us to get all of our children writing creatively and for fun on this day. Never has the written word had more power than in the past weeks where the country has been in lockdown and people have been confined to their own homes.

First of all, I would like to invite you to join in with The National Literacy Trust's My Dear New Friend project which encourages children to write letters to people living in care homes. Research shows that writing letters makes children feel happy and helps them express their feelings. Children who write letters regularly are more likely to be more confident writers and have more positive attitudes to writing. To take part, use the instructions attached to this email. Your child could write about their everyday life, or draw a picture of something important to them, like a pet or a favourite toy. You can post the letter to your local care home using the attached cover letter template. Your child's letter will brighten someone's day, and might even get a reply! It's a great opportunity for them to make new friends despite social distancing, whilst practising their writing skills. I am also attaching a template for your child's letter which they may use if they choose to. For further information, follow this link: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/mydearnewfriend/>.

In addition to this, First Story has launched the exciting #247challenge where children are challenged to write a story or poem in 24 words, starting with the words 'One day' and they have seven minutes to complete the challenge! For some help with this activity, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCjIzdJ3lao&feature=youtu.be> where Mark Haddon introduces the challenge. Other resources to support you with this challenge can be found on <https://firststory.org.uk/writeday/>. I am attaching a template should you wish to share your child's completed work on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram using #247challenge.

Happy writing!

Kind regards

Mrs Kay