



LETTER WRITING

Lesson Ideas

Below you will find a selection of letter writing and communication-themed, curriculum-linked lesson ideas and accompanying activity sheets written for lower primary students.

Broad learning outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will learn about the history of communication.
- Students will learn to write a personal letter.
- Students will reflect on the many ways to communicate with others.

English

- Students to brainstorm and list all of the possible ways that people can communicate. What are their top five ways to communicate with friends and family?
- Students to use the '**Personal letter template**' to practise writing personal letters. This can be found with the activity sheets.
- Students to share (*display or discuss*) items that they have received in the mail. Discuss what the items are, who they are from and how the students felt when they received them. Students should seek permission from parents/caregivers if bringing mail from home.
- As a class, brainstorm words about writing and posting letters. Perhaps some of these could be the spelling words for the week.
- Students to use the letter writing interactive (available in the 'Themed Curriculum Support Resources' section of the FTfs website) to write a personal letter to a friend or family member.
- Students to read the information about communication in the 'Themed Curriculum Support Resources' section of the FTfs website then answer the questions on the '**Communication throughout history**' activity sheet.
- Students to brainstorm all the types of personal letters they can think of (e.g. thank you letters, fan mail, invitations etc.) then work in small groups to write sample letters for each category.



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Mathematics

- Students to record the number of items they find in their letterbox over a period of two weeks. Sort the items into groups (e.g. personal letters, business letters, catalogues, bills, magazines) and graph the results.
- Students to complete the '**Mail maths**' activity sheet by reading the letter then answering the questions.

Science

- Students to investigate which materials have been used to write on throughout history (e.g. slate, papyrus, rocks etc.). Discuss the properties of these materials and what made them suitable for this purpose.

Humanities and Social Sciences

History

- Students to speak to their parents and/or grandparents about how they communicated when they were children. How is this similar or different to the way students communicate today?
- Students to write a letter to themselves including information such as favourite song, best friends, what they have been doing recently etc. Store the letters to be opened later in the year.
- Students to write a letter to an imaginary child from the past, explaining what life is like today. Students may wish to use their imaginations to write a reply.

Geography

- Students to brainstorm all the people they could write to and then mark the places these people live on a world map. Students could then calculate the cost of sending a letter to each location.



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The Arts

- Students to create some personalised letter heads and use them to write letters to friends and family.
- Students to research different fonts and then practise writing in each of them.
- Students to experiment with writing using various implements such as calligraphy pens, paint brushes, quills etc.

Technologies

Design and Technologies

- Students to design their ultimate communication device. Draw a picture of it and label the parts or features.
- Students to design a letter writing machine which could help them write letters to friends or family members.
- Students to assess their letterbox for safety and practicality. How easy is it for a postie to gain access to their letterbox?

Health and Physical Education

- Students to write a card or letter to themselves, a friend, or a family member, and then walk as a class to post them.
- Students to write a letter to their sporting hero. Use the letter to inspire the person or to tell them they are doing a great job.

Languages

- Students to investigate how to write and say simple greetings such as 'Dear Mum', 'Dear Dad', 'Dear Grandma', 'Dear Grandpa' etc. in various other languages. Why not investigate how to write and say some other simple phrases that could be used when writing a letter?