The students at East Manjimup are committed to becoming the best writers they can be. To help them achieve this, they write in their journal for at least fifteen minutes every day.

Their teachers are there to help and support their efforts by providing interesting prompts and encouragement. They take responsibility for their writing by doing their best and striving to improve a little bit every day. Sometimes the students go back and edit their writing, and sometimes they don’t. Sometimes the teacher marks the writing, and sometimes they don’t.

Being given the freedom to write their ideas without feeling pressure is important if they are to become fluent writers. Students are accountable for their writing by occasionally sharing their work with a peer or the class. It is quite exciting for the writers when they look back at their work to see how far they have come since starting to write more often and with greater freedom.

Here are some examples of writing journals from across the year levels.

Kindy writers love to have a real life purpose for writing, and what better thing to do than label a bag with your name ready to be filled with goodies?
This Pre-Primary student has a wonderful understanding of phonetic spelling, and look at
the terrific place names from her holiday! She visited Dalwallinu, Mount Margaret, Karijini,
Newman, Tom Price, Carnarvon, Kalbarri and Jurien Bay.

On the weekend I went to Dalwallinu. We went to Dal Welen, you and we went to Mount Margaret and Karijini and Newman and Tom Price, Carnarvon and Kalbarri and Jurien Bay. Themn.

On the weekend I went to lake pool falls. It was gushing down a rock. The rock was flat. It was a half kilometres on the way to the water fall and two and a half barks. We had a lunch of pembroke. We had chips and I had orange and passionfruit juice and so did Annabel. Then we went home after a long day. It was lots of fun.

In Year 1 the writers are getting the hang of fullstops and capitals.
Year 2 writers are gaining a better understanding of sentence structure.

This Year 3 student loves fishing, and oh what an improvement in his writing from February to June!
In Year 4 the writers will often use a wider variety of ideas and prompts to write pieces in a range of genres. Here we can see a survey, a report and a list.

Year 5 writers strive for good control of sentence structure, grammar and punctuation while maintaining as much fluency as possible.
These year 6 journals show excellent experimentation with language, combined with some fabulously thoughtful and creative content.
Writing, as with many things in life, is a journey. Our students will travel at different speeds along the pathway, occasionally pausing for a look at the scenery as they travel. Their progress map will reflect the effort they put into their daily writing. Be sure to chat with your children about how their writing is moving along.

Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You’re off to Great Places!
You’re off and away!

--Dr. Seuss