

# BIG WRITING

Teaching children to become independent and expert writers.

## A Big Writing lesson includes:

- ❖ Lots of experience beforehand at writing the particular text type chosen for the Big Write eg story, fact file, report, play script, poem.
- ❖ Talk Homework – discussed in class and sent home (important discussion and planning time.)
- ❖ A lively fun lesson that focuses on VCOP and generates ideas for the BW.
- ❖ An undisturbed writing session, possibly with candles, music, special pens or pencils and special books.
- ❖ Setting targets for how to make progress next time they write.

## How does Big Writing work?

It focuses on the four key aspects of quality writing:

**V**ocabulary – every child is encouraged to use ambitious words to make their writing more interesting. So:

*The cat sat on the mat.*

could become:

*The pampered cat snuggles serenely on the luxurious mat.*

**C**onnectives – words that join sentences together. They make writing more cohesive and interesting. So:

**I** couldn't go to the moon. **M**y rocket ran out of fuel.

*could become:*

*I couldn't go to the moon because my rocket ran out of fuel.*

**O**peners – by varying the way you open sentences, writing becomes more engaging to read.

**So:**

*I have to go home now.*

*could become:*

*Sadly, I have to go home now.*

**P**unctuation – Children are encouraged to use appropriate punctuation.

Stage 1	.
Stage 2	. ?
Stage 3	. ? , !
Stage 4	. ? , ! ... ' “”
Stage 5	. ? , ... - ! ' “” : ; ( )

### TALK HOMEWORK

This is a chance for your child to talk about what they are going to write during the Big Writing lesson.

By helping your child with this, it will enable them to:

- ❖ Think through and discuss initial ideas for their Big Writing.
- ❖ Get their writing ideas clear in their heads by thinking about and discussing the order of what they will write.

It will give you a chance to be involved in their development as a writer.

***If they can't discuss and verbalise their ideas, how can we expect them to write them down?***

**Practical ideas for Parents/Carers to help at home:**

**TALK! TALK! TALK!**

- ❖ **Ask them to describe everything and anything!**
- ❖ **Take it in turns to tell a story. One person starts it, the other says what happens next etc...**
- ❖ **Look at a picture or photo together. Use it to tell a story. Think of a title for your story. What would the opening 10 words be?**

**WRITE! WRITE! WRITE!**

**Make it real!**

**Encourage them to:**

- ❖ **write letters**
- ❖ **write a diary**
- ❖ **take notes about a walk, a trip etc...**
- ❖ **make lists – to do lists, shopping lists, lists of favourite music, games, characters, books etc...**
  
- ❖ **Use games to help develop vocabulary such as puzzles, crosswords, word games, anagrams etc...**

**READ! READ! READ!**

**Encourage them to:**

- ❖ **Read independently, for information and for pleasure.**
- ❖ **Read and share books with you.**
- ❖ **Talk about what they have and why they like particular books.**

**The more experience your child has of the distinctive 'voice' and language choices of other writers, the more confident they will become in developing a 'writing voice' of their own.**