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Dear Parents/Carers

Big Writing

One of our School Development focuses this year is on further developing and improving children's writing skills through launching Big Write. All staff were trained on this during one of our Inset days in September.

What is Big Write?

Big Writing is a term used for an approach to writing that was pioneered by Ros Wilson. Big Writing focuses on 4 main aspects of the writing process and gives the children the skills to improve their own writing through the development of talk for writing, sharing of language ideas within games, practising and improving their own writing skills through self-assessment and through a weekly special writing session.

The Four Elements of Big Write

The children are taught to think about their writing in four particular ways **Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation (V.C.O.P)**.

As part of Big Write children will be asked to take part in 'Talk Topic homework'. Starting this week, you will see that your child comes home with 'talk homework'. Each week it will detail the focus for talk for writing, on some occasions this could be a picture to discuss with the family. We would ask during this special 'talk time' that you encourage as many members of the family to take part in the discussion and that there are no distractions e.g the television is turned off. We would like your child to make notes from the discussion, which they then use to aid their writing. It is important that the Talk Topic Homework Notes from Discussion is returned to school every Friday, so that your child is then fully prepared for their Big Writing session.

Ideally, it might take place seated around the dinner table while you are eating your evening meal. First your child should give their opinions on the topic being asked to discuss, being encouraged to give reasons for their opinion using the word 'because'. This gives your child the chance to think through their thought process, discuss their ideas and for other members of the family to share their ideas which will support your child's writing the

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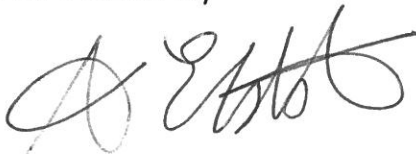
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following day. All of this is purely through quality talk and discussion in preparation for their Big Write session.

The Big Write Sessions- Every Friday

The children will take part in a Big Writing session where the teacher creates a special atmosphere by lighting a candle and playing very quiet classical music while the children independently write applying their 'talk homework' ideas and their writing skills they have learnt during the week. The teachers mark their writing and then share with the children ways to further improve it by editing their work against the elements of VCOP. The following week the children have the opportunity to improve on aspects of their Big Writing by up-levelling it e.g. using a wider range of connectives or improving use of vocabulary or varying their sentence openers or by using a wider range of punctuation. We are very excited about launching Big Write which has been proven to rapidly develop children's progress in writing. We look forward to sharing more about Big Write with you later in the year and hope that you enjoy supporting us by engaging in 'Talk for Writing homework.' Our new Writing leader, Mr Brown will be monitoring this new initiative and will be providing some parent workshops in the Spring term, for any parents who want to find out more about this.

Yours sincerely



Miss Elstob
Headteacher

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