



THE BIG WRITE

at

W.C.P.S.

What is BIG Writing?

- It is a philosophy about writing which was originally devised by Ros Wilson. (A former teacher and Ofsted Inspector).
- We have taken it and adapted it to suit our school and our children.
- It is based on the premise that to write well children need to feel confident and motivated.

Children are encouraged to..

- **Talk** about their writing
- Find exciting words and use these in their writing.
- **'Borrow'** exciting words and phrases from other authors. **'WOW'** words.
- Have a go at using interesting examples of punctuation.
- Once a week in their classrooms write for an extended period of time.
- **Re-read** their own writing and find ways to make it better.
- **Understand** what they need to do next to improve.

What are the key elements of Big Writing?

- Every week the children concentrate on the 4 elements of Big Writing:
- V C O P
- V – Vocabulary selecting exciting, challenging, different words and phrases to be used in their writing.
- C – Connectives – Children are taught to use a range of words and phrases which connect and extend ideas.

Key elements continued

- O – Story and sentence openers which are interesting and excite the reader.
- P – Punctuation. Different kinds of punctuation which adds to the story and helps the story evolve. For example dash (-), ellipses (.....)

The Big Write

- This happens once a week and using all the skills they have learnt the children are encouraged to write at length. The lighting is sometimes changed – candles are lit, and music is played softly in the background
- Children are encouraged to write at length without interruption. They are building their writing stamina.

How long do we write for each week?

- FS 'talk' about their writing and start putting down words.
- Year 1 write for 20 mins.
- Year 2 write for between 20 – 30 mins.
- Year 3 write for 30 mins.
- Year 4 write for 30 mins.
- Year 5 write for 30 – 40 mins.
- Year 6 write for 40 mins.

Big Write

- The children write in a special Big Writing folder which has the assessment criteria in the front.
- When the children have written their work the teachers mark it and give them detailed ‘small steps’ targets for improvement.
- We want every child in school to know what they need to do to improve to reach their next level.

How can you as parents help?

- Encourage your children to READ.
- Encourage your children to TALK.
- Encourage your children to spot WOW words and perhaps write them down in a book at home or on a piece of paper.
- Encourage your children to borrow words or phrases which they like from books, magazines, television programmes.
- Encourage your children to WRITE
- ASK your child regularly what their targets are.