

Mrs Bennett's Blog

Thursday 24th January 2019

Hi Everyone,

January is creeping towards a close and the mornings are just beginning to get that little bit lighter thank goodness! In the mornings, it can be icy on the playgrounds. Mr Dobson, our hardworking Site Manager, is up and out at 6am gritting our entrances but please do take extra care when walking on the main footpaths in and out of school during these wintery days.

This week we have been learning as a staff about the importance of vocabulary and extending our children's vocabulary as much as possible in order to improve their future life chances. Research shows that the wider a child's vocabulary at the age of seven the greater their chances of achieving well when they research their GCSE year in high school. Typically, a child needs to hear a new word 4 to 12 times before it is added to their vocabulary. Here's what you can do to help. Here are a few tips for our families to try at home...

Multiple Exposure

Typically, a child needs to hear a new word 4 to 12 times before it is added to his vocabulary. When you introduce your child to a new word, try to keep a mental note of it and work to use it again in your conversations with your child. It is also important to use the word in a variety of different contexts, wherever it applies. Don't be afraid to throw in a word that you had focused on previously as well. Repeated exposure is one of the best ways to master new vocabulary words.

Make Words Concrete

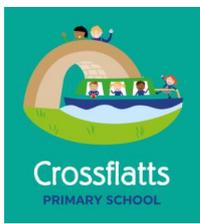
As you are teaching your child new words, it is important to help visualize them. For nouns, show your child a picture of it by searching online, or showing a picture in a book or magazine. If it is an adjective, find things that can be described using the word. For example, if you come across "scratchy," point out the scratchiness of sand paper or a man's chin. With verbs, try acting out the word with your child. Children love moving around as you explore the words "prance" or "prowl."

See It, Say It, Write It

In order for your child to actually learn a new vocabulary word, they need to be able to read it, say it, and write it. If your child comes across a word in a book and asks you how to pronounce it, encourage them to repeat the word out loud after you say it. Similarly, if your child hears a new word in the course of conversation that is unfamiliar, spell the word out for them and have him write it down on a piece of paper so that they can see the word.

Read Daily

Books are the number one way to expose children to a richer vocabulary. As often as possible, read books with your child. When they come to a word that they do not know, give your child a quick child-friendly definition and continue reading. It's important not to have a big pause about the fact that they didn't know the word. When you finish reading the story, go back to the word again and ask them if they can remember how to say it.



Show How You Learn New Words

When you come across a word that you don't know, point it out to your child. Describe to them how you were able to determine its meaning by using context clues. By explaining this process out loud, you will help show your child what they can do when they comes across an unfamiliar word. Highlight the fact that you still learn new words as well.

Safeguarding

Please can you ensure that if you change mobile phone numbers or work numbers that the school office is informed so that if your child becomes unwell or an urgent need to speak with you arises we have the correct contact details on our school system.

Attendance:

Here are last week's figures:

Our Aspirational Target	The national target	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
98%	96.1%	97.5%	98.3%	96.5%	97.4%	98.8%	94.8%	98%

There were 4 children late for school last week. (Before registration closed at 9am) and 7 children later than 9am

Keep warm everyone!

Mrs Bennett

Headteacher