



Bury Church of England Primary School
Part of the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust

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Dear Parents,

Following our commitment to raise standards in writing at Bury Church of England Primary school, we are very excited to be introducing a new initiative called 'Big Writing.

We will be holding 1 session a week dedicated purely to writing. This session will take place every Friday morning throughout the whole school. The sessions will include time for children to plan their writing. They will bring home 'talk homework' the night before the Big Write so they can begin to prepare ideas for their writing before they plan. Once the children are ready to write, the writing session will be a special time. Children will write independently following the ideas they have planned. The subject they are given to write will vary and include a selection of different writing genres. It may relate to the topic work being covered in class.

In reception class the children will take part in activities for a session based on talking – 'The Big Talk.' Before children develop their writing skills they need to practise their language skills through talking. Miss Greenwood will choose a topic for the children to talk about and let you know so that they can talk to you about it at home too.

Big Writing – Talk Homework.

As part of the preparation for our Big Writing sessions, pupils will be given a 'Talk Homework'. The idea of Big Writing is that if the children can't say it, they can't write it. We need to encourage the development of language and listening skills in order to develop children's writing ability. Talk Homework is an approach developed through Big Writing that promotes the development of such conversations. Your child will be given a slip of paper every Thursday (starting today). The paper will inform you of the topic to discuss with your child in order to help them with the content of their writing the following day.

To help your child get the most out of their talk homework task, Ros Wilson, the creator of Big Writing, suggests that we try to do the following:

- Encourage as many family members as possible to be involved in Talk Homework, possibly around the meal table!
- Switch off the T.V.! Try to ensure this is dedicated talking and listening time.
- When giving your opinion, use the 'because' word to explain why you think that.
- Give the possible opinions of two contrasting family members who are not present for the talk, and use the 'because' word to explain why they may be different.
- Ask others around the table to give their opinions and to use the 'because' word.
- Ask your child his / her opinion and ask them to use the 'because' word.
- Link the topic you are given to discuss back to something you remember from when you were a child and say why things may be different now. Project forward to how things may be different in the future.

We thank you in advance for your support and please do ask your class teacher if you require any further information.

Emma Heanes
Headteacher