

# TALK HOMEWORK.

## WE NEED TO TALK!

It is no coincidence that the Number 1 objective in the Literacy Framework is **SPEAKING**. Oral language lies at the centre of communication and without it there would be no books and no writing. Pie Corbett's guidance materials are called **TALK** for Writing and contain Book **TALK** and Writer **TALK** and have been hugely influential in raising standards in writing over the last year or so.

The Rose Report also stresses the importance of oral language in developing comprehension. If children understand what they hear, they will understand it when they read. The wider the children's knowledge and understanding of the world, and the language associated with it, the greater the insight they bring to their reading and the greater the range of contexts they bring to their writing.

## IT'S GOOD TO TALK!

But we don't just talk to inform reading and writing. **TALKING** is a skill in its own right and equipping children to be confident, articulate speakers is just as important as teaching them to read and write. In school, **SPEAKING AND LISTENING** are integrated throughout the curriculum. Talk is usually purposeful, directed and context driven.

However, **TALK** can also be developed

and encouraged at home. Ashton Primary School in Preston, has recently introduced a weekly '**TALK HOMEWORK**' task to encourage pupils to develop and build on their **SPEAKING AND LISTENING** skills. The **TALK HOMEWORK** question is introduced each week in assembly, displayed in all classrooms and is communicated to parents via the school newsletter.

Children and parents are encouraged to find a quiet, family time that is free from distractions in which they will discuss the **TALK HOMEWORK** question as a family. It is suggested that the '**BECAUSE**' word is used when constructing their responses and points of view.

Back at school the following week, the children's responses are discussed in key stage assemblies. The pupils benefit from **LISTENING** and responding to a range of opinions, beliefs and experiences as well as being exposed to new vocabulary and ideas.

Over the weeks, pupil responses have started to become more articulate, detailed and carefully thought out.

This can only have a positive impact, not only on **SPEAKING AND LISTENING** skills but also on the children's writing.

My perfect day out would be... because....



Which sport is healthiest, swimming, football, cycling, cricket....? Why?



Which cartoon character would you like in your class? Why?



If you could design a home/car of the future, what would it look like?



If the Queen/Snow White/Ben Ten/Simon Cowell came to tea what would you give them? Why? How would you entertain them?



If you won the lottery, what would you do with the money?

If you were sent into space to explore a new planet, who would you take with you and why? Which ten items would you take with you and why? (Or a desert island.)



If you were the Headteacher/King/Queen/PM for the day, what would you do? (Small picture book - If I were the Headteacher....)



What is your earliest memory? Describe.



If the Bear family and the Goldilocks family were to meet, what would they talk about?

Which story setting would like to visit? Why?



If your house was on fire, what would you save and why?



Which story character would you like as a best friend? Why?



Imagine that you woke up as a girl/boy. How would your day be different? Would people treat you differently? How?



My favourite song is... because...



If you could swap places with a character in a book, who would it be? What would you do differently?

Who is naughtier, Goldilocks or Jack? Why?



How many nursery rhymes can your family name and recite?



The most important person I know is .... because .....



Who is the most important member of a football team? Striker? Keeper? Why?

If I could invite any famous person to my birthday party, it would be ... because.....



If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would it be? What will you find there?



Compare three Superheroes. Who is best and why?



Who would you rather be, one of the three little pigs or the wolf? Why?



What is the best birthday/Christmas present you've ever had?



If you could have something money can't buy, what would it be?

What birthday present would you give to Little Red Riding Hood/Goldilocks/Jack...



If an alien landed on Earth, what would you tell him about our planet?



Outline something that annoys you every day

Recount the events of your day using time connectives

