

VCOP The Big Write

Positivity, Persistence, Pride, Passion

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VCOP - THE BIG WRITE ! CSPS BIG WRITE has finally arrived.

Wednesday, 9 August 2017

**Let's celebrate together as we commence our VCOP journey
into our first whole school BIG WRITE.**



Dear Parents/Guardians

We are implementing a wonderful new program to provide our students with the skills and tools to be amazing writers. In addition to our daily English lessons, we will hold a Big Write session dedicated purely to writing.

In order to become more confident and competent writers, students will develop four main aspects in their writing - **(VCOP) - Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation**

As a part of the preparation for these sessions, which is known as 'The Big Write and VCOP', students will be given "Talk Homework". The idea of Big Write is; *'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 Write that promotes the development of such conversations.

What is a Big Write?

Big Write and VCOP is designed to bring the fun back into writing, to make the children want to write and to be continuously challenged throughout the writing journey. On Thursday, 24 August 2017 the whole school will come to a halt and every student, staff member and visitor in our school stops everything and participates in a writing session. It is going to be loads of fun and will send a genuine message to all our students about the value and sheer enjoyment of writing.

How you can help at home.

This term your child will come home with a new topic every two weeks. The first topic will be sent home on **Wednesday, 16 August 2017**, in preparation for the launch of the **Big Write on Thursday, 24 August 2017**. This will inform you of the topic to discuss with your child in order to help them with the content of their writing. The Big Write is a celebration time. It is their chance to 'show off' how much they have learnt during the week in Literacy, it is not and should not be seen as a test. Please see the attached sheet for strategies to assist your child with preparation for the Big Write.

If you require any support or clarification about the Big Write or how to conduct Talk Homework, please contact your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support.

KATHY GOODWIN

FISO Leader. Excellence in Teaching and Learning: English

Strategies to assist your child with the Big Write on Thursday, 24 August 2017.

To help your child get the most out of their talk homework task, we suggest that you try to do the following:

- Encourage as many family members as possible to be involved in Talk Homework, possibly around the meal table, clearing up after the meal, at bedtime after a story etc.
- Switch off the T.V. and other electronic devices, so there are no distractions! Try to ensure this is dedicated talking and listening time. It only needs to be 10-15mins.
- When giving your opinion, use the 'because' word to explain why you think that.
- Ask others around the table to give their opinions or ideas in detail.
- Ask your child his / her opinion or ideas encouraging them to give details and borrow ideas or language from other family members as they see fit.
- 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.
- Use photos, pictures, personal items to assist your child with the Big Write. Stimulus materials can greatly assist your child with ideas when writing.
- Be enthusiastic about our whole school Big Write. Ask your child for feedback about how they went with their writing.

