

8th February 2021

Dear parents and carers

Our aim at St. Joseph's is to install a culture that nurtures the talent of our young creative writers so I wish to share with you our exciting new approach to writing at the school.

The Write Stuff.

In September, we introduced 'The Write Stuff' in Year 5. This is a teaching method providing pupils with the freedom to choose the subject they wish to write about whilst at the same time offering them a strong framework to embed core writing skills. It is having a significant impact on writing in Year 5. We introduced it to other groups this term and can see a positive improvement with pupil engagement and outcomes.

We have three zones of teaching:
Fantastics (vocabulary)
Grammaristics (grammar)
Boomtastics (literary devices)

These are visually represented in a table - *The Writing Rainbow*. It will be included in your child's Home writing learning Books. Also included is a self-assessment sheet with skills your child should use in their writing.

Introducing Time-to-Write Fridays.

Each Friday our pupils will be assigned an independent writing task which is to be completed in their Home Learning Books - *Time-to-Write*. **Children must write in it and work should not be typed.** If your child has a pen licence, please allow them to write in pen (not a biro)

Children across the whole school will be given the same task from Pobble 365/Votes for School. Every year group is assigned specific success criteria and outcomes but the activity is the same for all. Work completed will inform teacher assessments and help us to evaluate the effectiveness of 'The Write Stuff' initiative.

I am asking for your support in this activity. As a parent or carer, we would like you to ensure this activity is completed to the best of your child's ability.

- Pupils should apply the resources given to them effectively
- Use neat cursive hand-writing
- Read through and edit their work

It is important that they have a calm and quiet space and enough time to complete the task slowly and thoughtfully. At school, we often put on classical music and adjust the lighting to create the perfect ambience for focussed learning.

What is Required

After your child has completed their work, we would like you to write a few sentences commenting on your child's work and what you think they need to do to improve next time. We will send examples of comments you may use.

When we return to school, the completed book should be presented as a portfolio of writing. This will form part of their end-of-year writing judgement.

Each week we will choose the best writing from Early Years, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2. That child will be awarded a *Star Writer* award. Their composition will go on the website for everyone to marvel. So please take a clear picture of their writing and share the image on google classroom or through the year group email.

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. The work you are doing with your child is enormously appreciated by all staff and I am sure by your son or daughter.

I look forward to seeing your excellent writing.

Best regards.

Naomi Bickmore
Writing Lead

