

King Offa Primary Academy Newsletter ~ February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another really exciting term at King Offa and the staff and children have been working incredibly hard as always. At this point in the year I am always impressed with the progress that you can see the children making. By Term Three teachers and children know each other really well, the excitement of Christmas has passed and classes really focus on their learning. On page two you can read all about the Primary Writing Project and the impact it has had on all children at school and in the nursery. I hope that you managed to take the opportunity to come and join an English lesson this week and were impressed with the skill of our teachers and the hard work from the children.

On page three you can find out about some parenting courses that we are delighted to be hosting in term four. They are completely free and offer some really useful tips and advice on what can be a very difficult job! One of the

biggest challenges facing us as parents is the use of social media by our children.

Just keeping up with the changes in technology is hard enough, let alone teaching our children how to keep themselves safe online.

In school all children from Foundation Stage to Year Six learn about E-safety as part of their computing curriculum. We do need your help as well though. Please monitor your child's use of social media and remind them of how to stay safe online. The vast majority of friendship issues that arise with our older pupils involve social media and we need your help to keep our children happy and learning. There are lots of really useful resources and information that you can access to help you keep your child safe and you'll find some links below that may be of interest.

James Freeston - *Headteacher*



E-Safety

A quick Google search of e-safety will throw up some really useful websites that can help you learn how to keep your child safe online.

The following websites may be of use:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents
- www.internetmatters.org
- www.childnet.com
- www.nspcc.org.uk

KEEP YOUR KIDS
SAFE Online



Down Road, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 4HS
01424 211548

KingOffaOffice@auroraacademies.org www.kingoffaprimaracademy.org

The Primary Writing Project

In September 2016 King Offa and its partner Aurora schools signed up to be part of the **Primary Writing Project** (PWP). The PWP is a whole school approach that helps schools to implement **Talk 4 Writing** (T4W). The T4W approach to teaching writing has been used successfully in schools for a number of years, in fact its inventor, Pie Corbett, used to teach at King Offa many years ago. All school staff have attended training and have been implementing what they have learnt since the start of the school year.

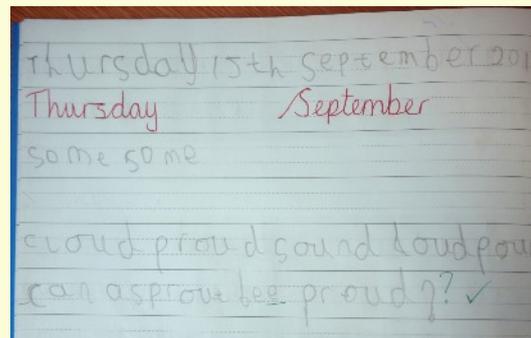
T4W is based around the idea of motivating children to write by helping them understand the way texts are written and developing their skills as writers. You may have heard your child talking about story maps. These are used at the beginning of a unit of work to help children learn stories off by heart, explore the structure and word choices and learn new vocabulary. Here Mrs Speed is using actions to teach children in her class the story. This stage is called **imitation**.



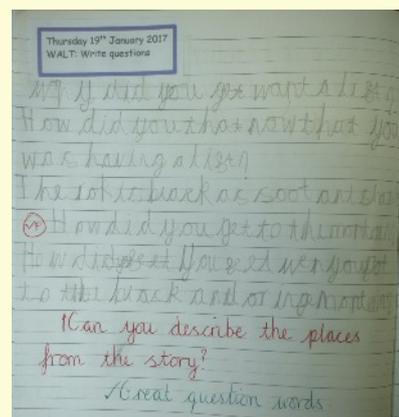
Following the imitation stage of learning children move on and start the **innovation** stage. Children now experiment with changing parts of the story. This may be by switching characters, the setting or tweaking the plot of the story. They use the story maps they have drawn to help them experiment along with developing toolkits of writing skills they can use. Teachers continue to help children develop their knowledge of the features of the story they have learnt and apply these in their own writing. Here you can see Miss Dowling and Mrs Standley working with a group of children helping them collect ideas from the story they have read.



Once pupils have developed a really good understanding of the story and its structure it's their turn to begin the **invention stage**. The children now begin working on their own stories using the skills and knowledge they have learnt in the previous two stages. By this time children have a huge amount of information that they can include in their writing and feel really confident and proud of what they produce. These children in Year Six are surrounded by examples of writing and their own toolkits which support them in being creative and enable them to produce really high quality pieces of writing.



The progress that we have seen in pupil's books has been amazing and we really could have chosen just about any child to show off their writing. Pictured here are examples of writing from the same child in Year Two. The first was done in September and the most recent at the end of January.



POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM - Triple P Parenting



We are delighted to announce that we have secured a fantastic resource for all parents and carers for our school. Triple P is a FREE programme designed to empower parents and support us all in what is a wonderful journey with practical tips and like-minded support. Parenting is the most important job that any of us will do and so we are keen to ensure that all parents can attend.

What is Triple P?

Triple P works by giving parents the skills to raise confident, healthy children and teenagers, and to build stronger family relationships. It also helps parents manage misbehaviour and prevent problems occurring in the first place. Triple P gives simple and practical strategies to suit family's individual values, beliefs and needs. It is not 'one size-fits all'. It offers increasing levels of support to meet parents' different needs. Hastings and Rother Triple P is now working with parents through seminars in schools and community centres.

King Offa is delighted to be hosting three parenting seminars in Term 4. These seminars will provide an opportunity to learn more about child development and help support the best outcomes for all children. The seminars will cover:

- *The Power of Positive Parenting – Wednesday 1st March 9:00 - 10.30am*
- *Raising Confident and Competent Children – Wednesday 8th March 9:00 - 10.30am*
- *Raising Resilient Children – Wednesday 15th March 9:00 - 10.30am*

Each seminar lasts for 1 ½ hours and will be held in King Offa's brand new training room, complete with tea, coffee and snacks! You can come along to one session or attend all three.

Please speak to Mr Freeston or Mr Laker to find out more or book a place by contacting the school office.

We look forward to seeing you there!





Remember to check out our Facebook page and 'like' it. You will then see any updates we make. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view our page - just search for

'Facebook King Offa Primary Academy'.



KEY DATES 2017

Thursday 9th February

Monday 20th February

Tuesday 28th February

Thursday 2nd March

Friday 31st March

Tuesday 18th April

Monday 8th - Friday 12th May

Friday 26th May

Monday 5th June

Friday 23rd June

Tuesday 27th - Friday 30th June

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th July

Thursday 13th - Friday 14th July

Thursday 20th July

Last Day of Term 3 for Children

Children Return for First Day of Term 4

Parents' Evening 3.20 - 6.00pm

Parents' Evening 3.20 - 6.00pm

(sign-up sheets available 20th February)

Last Day of Term 4

Children Return for First Day of Term 5

Yr 6 SATs Week

Last Day of Term 5

Children Return for First Day of Term 6

Yr 5 Fun Day at Bexhill Academy

Yr 5 Blackland Farm Activity Week

Yr 6 London Trip

Yr 6 Taster Days at Bexhill Academy

Last Day of Term 6

INSET days planned for this academic year are:

Friday 10th February

Friday 24th March

Friday 9th June

New Phone Number? Moved house?

If you have changed any of your contact details recently please complete the form below and return to the office. Thank you.

Child's name and class:

Address:

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Phone Email:

Mobile: