



Literacy Talk4Writing Showcase



Friday 6th March, 2015

Toddlers - Year 1 @ 8:45 - 9:30 AM

Years 2 - 6 @ 2:15 - 2:50 PM



We invite all parents and friends of Provo Primary School to join us for our fantastic Literacy Showcases!

Learn more about our Literacy curriculum here at Provo Primary School, and discover how speaking and listening, reading and writing skills develop and progress as your child moves through the school.

Throughout the school, each class will have a variety of activity stations set up for you to engage in.

The children are all looking forward to sharing and explaining their learning with you!

Talk 4 Writing

This year across the school, we have begun to explore 'Talk4Writing', which is an innovative approach to teaching creative and non-fiction writing that is fun, engaging and motivating for children. You will see evidence of this approach showcased in all classes, and have the opportunity to sense how it progresses as children move through the year groups.

Talk4Writing helps children to speak the language of texts before they attempt to write it. It uses high quality model texts to introduce them to different story/text types which they then learn off by heart as a 'Talking Text'. A class story map, consisting of pictures and some key words, prompts the children as they retell the text aloud as a group. Repeating this many times, they begin to internalise it.



Together as a class, the children scrutinise these texts with a writer's critical eye. They learn the underlying structures and the process of planning and create their own story maps. They also learn about the key strategies for creating interesting characters and settings, and how to use a range of sentence types to create different effects. Multi-sensory activities, such as role-play, hot seating and puppet theatre help build children's confidence and linguistic ability, and deepen their understanding of the text.

Finally, the children go on to write their own stories and non-fiction texts. They experiment with ideas and begin to explore their own style of writing, using sentence types from the model text. With the class writing together, the process becomes a joint adventure. Children support each other and the results are exciting! *Want to learn more about Talk4Writing in action? Then read on...*

Exploring all the Classrooms

We encourage you to visit different classrooms around the school and not just the one that your child is currently in. We feel this will allow you to gain a sense of how the Talk4Writing approach builds children's language knowledge orally, which in turn develops and enhances their writing skills as they progress through the school.

Starting in our Early Years classes, you will experience how Talk4Writing begins at this early age as storytelling and early mark making. Move through each year group and, as more writing emerges, you will see how the process increasingly develops. Take a look at the quality of writing in our upper-year class, and observe all of features of writing that they are able to include. The growth in development of children's writing in these short primary years is truly phenomenal!

Talking Text Videos

We are very excited to share with you, our series of amazing Talking Text videos, which we have recorded across the school. These will be posted weekly on our blog with further information on why we believe Talk4Writing is an exciting approach for our teachers and students to continue to explore and utilise. We hope you enjoy watching them as much as we do!



Read on to see what activities and learning each class will be demonstrating in their classrooms during our Literacy Talk4Writing Showcase morning and afternoon events...

In Toddlers, we will be demonstrating:

Talk4Writing (Fiction): We will amaze you with our shared oral version of the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" - beware it's catchy! With this early immersion of storytelling experiences, just imagine the talented writers these toddlers will be by the time they're in Year 6!



Early Mark Making: Enjoy experimenting with shaving cream with your fingers. What different marks can you create in this sensory and physical experience

Sensory Tubs: Use your senses to explore and retell our version of "We're Going on a Bear Hunt".

Squiggle Books: We have been given these books to 'draw' in and are encouraged to communicate what we are 'drawing'. Spend some time 'drawing' with us and conversing with us through the process.

Tuning into Sounds: Distinguish differences in vocal sounds, including oral blending and segmenting. Pick a voice sound card and we will make different sounds with our voices and instruments, playing them loudly and softly.

In Preschool, we will be demonstrating:

Talk4Writing (Fiction): Come and hear us re-tell one of our favorite stories... 'Pete the Cat - I love my White Shoes'. We have adored using our Talking Text story map as an introduction to Talk4Writing. You can also see our 'Pete' collages and read the book with your child.



Mark Making and Letter Formation: We have been exploring many different mediums, utensils and activities. These help prepare us for letter formation, by refining our hand-eye coordination and strengthening our hands and arms as we begin to develop our 'pencil grip'. Keep an eye out for the 'insets for design', tweezers, painting, stamping, small bead threading and jigsaw puzzle activities.

Phonic Learning, Matching and Rhymes: We love singing the Jolly Phonics and LetterLand songs. Come and press play and sing along! We also like playing our 'Match the Letter' game. Come and play a game with us.

Story Telling and Conversation Circle Time: Story telling assists us with our language development while also creating a love of reading. Let us show you during circle time how we build a story together. Around the room you will find props, story boards and artwork that we actively use to re-tell stories.

In Junior Kindergarten, we will be demonstrating:

Talk4Writing (Recounts): Have you ever wanted to know how to make Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins? We will present our Talking Text video so that you can see just how it's done!



Mark Making and Letter/Sound Knowledge: Visit our Writing Table Area and Animal Hospital to see how print becomes meaningful to us through our play. During this developmental stage, we utilise mark making (letters, their name, labels etc.) in ways that are purposeful to us and so in turn become important for us to use as self-directed learners.

LetterLand and Play Dough: Play dough activities mixed with LetterLand character cards create opportunities for us to create things with play dough that represent different sounds (peas and pizza for Peter Puppy etc.). We can also make letters with play dough, and explore and practice phonics for reading and writing.

Circle Time: Visit our morning JK welcome circle time to observe how we use our name tags to recognise letters and sounds, and how we share songs and stories to practice our speaking and listening skills. You may even get to meet Scruffy the Bear and Jerry the Duck!

In Kindergarten, we will be demonstrating:

Talk4Writing (Instructions): Have you ever wanted to know how to build a Moon Buggy? Well, here's your chance! We will demonstrate our shared Talking Text so that you can learn how to build one of our design projects with our expert help!

Mark Making and Letter Formation: Play on one of our iPad apps to learn and rehearse the correct letter and number formations. Learning these now allows us to develop consistent and efficient handwriting in the long term.



Phonic Blends Word Games: We use a range of interactive computer games and white-board activities to explore and rehearse our daily phonics for reading and writing. Have a go...if we'll let you have a turn!

Sight Word Circle Time: Watch and participate as Ms. Myrna and Mr. Toby lead a (relatively) typical circle time with activities that focus on recognition and recall of our Kindergarten sight words.

In Year 1, we will be demonstrating:

Talk4Writing (Fiction): Watch a video of our Talking Text, based on the story of 'The Enormous Turnip'. We will then teach you the actions as you follow our class story map.



Hot Seating: Hot seat different characters we are pretending to be and ask us questions.

Retelling: Have a go at retelling the story through pictures on character frames.



In Year 2, we will be demonstrating:

Talking Text (Fiction): Watch a video of us performing our 'The Papaya That Spoke' Talking Text. We will then teach it to you using our class story map.



Internalising Patterns in Language: Find out how we get to know the story off by heart through story mapping, hot seating, freeze framing, and puppet theatre activities. Let us explain and demonstrate each of these, then have a go yourself at hot-seating and using the puppet theatre.

Writing our own Stories: See story characters we have created hanging on our washing line. Look closely at our own individual story maps and read the stories we have created at the end of the Talk4Writing process. We think you'll be impressed!

As you move around the room from station to station, you will have learnt about all the stages of Talk4Writing and the activities we engage in.

In Year 3, we will be demonstrating:

Talking Text (Fiction): View our video of our Talking Text on 'The Clever Coyote and the Buffalo'.



Punctuation Skills: Test your skills by making sentences, adding in speech marks, adjectives and similes.

Freeze-Frame: 'Guess the scene' and decide what you think the characters are saying or thinking.

Playscripts: Read our playscripts. Choose a character and try to read your part with lots of expression!

In Year 4, we will be demonstrating:

Talking Text (Fiction): Let us teach you our 'Where the Wild Things Are' Talking Text actions.



Adjective Posters: Take a look at our 'add adjectives/synonyms' posters. Can you think of more we could add?

Non-Fiction Explanation Texts: Study our posters on the skeletal and muscular system and then take a quiz and test your knowledge – are you smarter than a Year 4? We invite you to take on the challenge.

In Year 5, we will be demonstrating:

Talking Text (Persuasive): Watch a video of our Talking Text, an abridged version of Martin Luther King's 'I have a Dream' speech, and view the persuasive texts we have created from this. Press the buzzer and watch as we act out our Talking Text on demand.



Recount interviews: Inspired by the book, 'Tuesday' by David Wiesner, view a video of our police detective interviews. Then become a detective yourself and ask us questions as we role-play in a 'hot-seating' activity.

Punctuation: We challenge you to find all the missing punctuation in sentences we have created. Punctuation specialists will guide and discuss the choices available if you find that you need some help.

In Year 6, we will be demonstrating:

Balanced arguments: We dare you to read our persuasive pieces of writing and determine whether or not we have made a good job of persuading you to change your mind or to reaffirm your current standing on a range of topical issues. Can you identify the persuasive devices that we have used within our writing?

Literacy Skills: How good are your literacy skills? Proof read our prepared texts and see if you can identify spelling errors, missing punctuation, incorrect use of grammar and misuse of tenses.

Non-Fiction Information Texts: Take a look through our professional poster projects and find out how we research, and create them using our Internet and computing skills. Learn something new about the rainforest and natural disasters. Read our human body posters and then take a quiz and see what you can recall!

Short Stories: Don't be too frightened to read our short horror stories. Featuring cliffhangers, how do you think they will end?



E-Safety

In school this last half term, our Year 1 to 6 classes have been exploring the theme of e-safety as part of their Computing curriculum. Please come and find out how we approach this topic and see some of the activities and work we have produced as part of our learning.

We aim to teach our students to use technology safely and respectfully, focusing on them understanding the importance of keeping their personal details private when online, considering who they are talking to and making sure a trusted adult knows what they are doing. Older students also learn about where they can go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.



We encourage you to explore the many websites that offer information and support for parents, such as www.thinkuknow.co.uk and www.childnet.com. We hope that you will join with us in reaching out to your children by asking them about how they are using technology and the Internet. Collaborative conversations between you and your child will enable you to guide them to learn to make safe online decisions and to feel happy coming to you when they feel they need help.

