Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are committed to raising writing standards at Seaford Park P.S. We have been using a program to improve writing and now we want to put these new ideas into practice both at school and at home.

In addition to daily Literacy lessons, we will also be holding 1 ½ hour sessions throughout the year dedicated purely to writing in which children will develop 4 main aspects of their writing – Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation. These are the four main elements of writing which children can learn and develop their skills in, so that they become more confident and competent writers.

As part of the preparation for this session, which is known as ‘Big Write and VCOP’, pupils will be asked to participate in ‘Talk Homework’. The idea of Big Write is; ‘that 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.

Your child will come home with a new topic, which may arrive home on different days depending on when Big Write is going to take place that week. This will inform you of the topic to discuss with your child in order to help them with the content of their writing the following day.

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

- Encourage as many family members as possible to be involved in Talk Homework, possibly around the meal table!
- Switch off the T.V.! Try to ensure this is dedicated talking and listening time.
- When giving your opinion, use the ‘because’ word to explain why you think that.
- Give the possible opinions of two contrasting family members who are not present for the talk, and use the ‘because’ word to explain why they may be different.
- Ask others around the table to give their opinions and to use the ‘because’ word.
- Ask your child his / her opinion and ask them to use the ‘because’ word.

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.

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

Regards,
Jessica Townsend