

Pre/Primary School

Carolyn Guven : Year 2 Teacher

Zekeriyaköy Mah.,Kilyos Cad., No: 227/1,2, Sarıyer, İstanbul

Tel: +90 212 202 7027 Ext: 113/114

+90 212 202 7709 Ext: 113/114

Fax +90 212 202 7796

Email: c.guven @bisistanbul.org



6th Jan., 2012

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a restful holiday and that all your new resolutions will hold good :-)

We kick off 2012 with a new development in the Literacy syllabus for the rest of the year. This is BIG WRITING!

What is BIG WRITING?

- It is a philosophy about writing which was originally devised by Ros Wilson. (A former teacher and Ofsted Inspector).
- We have taken it and adapted it to suit our school and our children.
- It is based on the premise that to write well children need to feel confident and motivated. They need to 'have a go,' nothing is actually 'wrong'.

CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO...

- Talk about their writing
- Find exciting words and use these in their writing.
- 'Borrow' exciting words and phrases from other authors. 'WOW' words.
- Have a go at using interesting examples of punctuation.
- Once a week in their classrooms write for an extended period of time.
- Re-read their own writing and find ways to make it better.
- Understand what they need to do next to improve.

The BIG WRITE

- Children are encouraged to write at length without interruption. They are building their writing stamina.
- Every week the children concentrate on one of the 4 elements of Big Writing:
- V C O P
- V – Vocabulary selecting exciting, challenging, different words and phrases to be used in their writing.
- C – Connectives – Children are taught to use a range of words and phrases which connect and extend ideas.
- O – Story and sentence openers which are interesting and excite the reader.
- P – Punctuation. Different kinds of punctuation which adds to the story and helps the story evolve. For example dash (-), ellipses (.....)

HOW can you as parents help?

- Encourage your children to READ.
- Encourage your children to TALK.
- Encourage your children to spot WOW words and perhaps write them down in a book at home or on a piece of paper.
- Encourage your children to borrow words or phrases which they like from books, magazines, television programmes.
- Encourage your children to WRITE
- ASK your child what target they have to improve their writing.

Big Writing will be the first thing on Monday mornings so, changes involved to timetabling and homework are:

1. spellings will be given from Friday to the test on the following Friday,
2. Talk homework will be given on Friday to be talked through for Monday morning (this will be a set task or subject that will just take a few minutes or as long as you and your child wish to talk about it, make suggestions, give feedback or just listen!).
3. Monday morning reading mums (Asli and Elsa) would it be possible for you to come another morning or an afternoon as it is important that the writing time is continuous?
4. Talk home work may be in English, but if your child has a different Mother Tongue, then using that is **just as good, if not better!**

Normal Funwork and homework will still be given on Fridays and due the following Thursday.

Our first topic of the term is the D & T topic Wheels. In this unit the children will look at the parts and purposes of vehicles, discover how fixed and unfixed wheels and axles work before designing and making a vehicle.

We are planning to go to the Classic car Museum and/ or the Rahmi Koc Museum.

This is followed by a science topic Forces and Movement in which the children will think about forces that move objects, particularly wheeled objects, and set up an experiment to test a theory: this ties in with the Maths data processing and measuring units.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6_7/forces_movement.shtml

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/5_6/pushes_pulls.shtml

<http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/vtc/ngfl/science/467/loader.swf>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/8_9/friction.shtml

For data: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/numeracy/data/index.shtml>

For general fun: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/numeracy/>

In Literacy we will be working on writing stories in familiar settings before moving on to Information texts and Explanations

Here is a site for spelling and phonics practice:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/index.shtml>

In ICT we are learning how to read web pages , searching for specific information using textual clues like subheadings, hyperlinks, menus and bullet points. We will also be learning how to frame (good) search questions.

<http://www.askkids.com/>

In Geography the country presentations continue on Monday afternoons AND we will be starting a new, termlong topic: Down Under. We shall explore the geography and touch on the history of Australia. Then we will compare and contrast it with Turkey and our lives in Istanbul.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/australia/>

<http://www2.lhric.org/pocantico/australia/australia.htm>

Regards,
Carolyn Guven