

Somerville Rise Primary School began using The Big Write in 2016 and it has proven to be an exciting and effective way of encouraging children to think about 4 key areas for developing both their spoken and written language.

Children take part in a variety of oral and written activities and games throughout the week to develop their **VCOP** skills.

Vocabulary: using 'Wow Words' – new and impressive words, up-levelling "ordinary" words to make them more exciting

Connectives: using powerful connectives (joining words) to link two or more ideas

Openers: using interesting openers (sentence starters)

Punctuation: initially using boundary punctuation (starting with a capital letter and finishing with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark) and then moving into more complex punctuation (such as talking marks, commas, ellipses)

In order for children to produce their best writing during their **Big Write** session at school; they need to discuss the topic in advance. Discussion work always forms a key part of our 'Big Write' sessions. Prior to the writing task at school, information will be sent home so families can be involved in **The Big Talk**; a discussion about the writing topic.

The Big Talk **IS A CHANCE TO:**

- Help your child to think through and discuss initial ideas in order to develop the thought process.
- Engage your child in purposeful talk.
- Ask your child for their opinions.
- Show that it is fine to have different views or opinion.
- Develop your child's vocabulary through the use of WOW words.
- Stimulate your child's creativity.
- Encourage the use of standard English with no slang or incorrect grammar.

SOME HINTS FOR The Big Talk CONVERSATION:

- Encourage as many family members as possible to be involved in the Talking Homework.
- Make it an enjoyable activity.
- Switch off the television to try to ensure that this is dedicated talking and listening time.
- Begin a conversation by modelling... "I think that... because ..."
- Do NOT do the writing at home – the writing is done at school. The purpose of The Big Talk is to prepare them for writing by getting ideas in their head.
- Encourage thinking about exciting words to use to make their writing more interesting.

"If they can't say it, they can't write it!"