



12 September 2022

Year 3 & 4 Writing Journey

Dear Parents and Carers

As a phase, we are focussing on the development of writing and ensuring the children become more independent learners, building their learning across the curriculum as well as developing the children into thoughtful writers, using the 'Talk for Writing' approach to achieve this.

'Talk for Writing' was developed by the author Pie Corbett. It is a fun, creative yet also rigorous approach to develop writers.

Through its multi-sensory and interactive learning process it enables children of all abilities to learn to write a wide range of story and text types, using various methods, including:

- listening to and learning texts and stories
- taking part in drama and role-play
- creating story and text maps
- collecting words and language strategies
- building on their working knowledge of grammar.



At GHPS we are all very enthusiastic about this approach as it brings out the best in the children and their teachers (who write their own model texts for the children to use as the basis of their own writing!) We are all writers together! Writing becomes a joint adventure, and the results are exciting.

The Three stages of Talk for Writing at GHPS

Stage 1 – Imitate

The teachers choose a text which is either fiction or non-fiction containing sentence structures and ambitious language which they feel will move on the children's learning. The children learn this text by heart using a 'text map' and actions. They spend some time as a class reading the text and pulling it apart, developing their comprehension skills and looking at key words and phrases within the text to identify the features of the genre being taught. They then create a class 'toolkit' of features and important sentence structures to use when they write the text themselves.

Stage 2 - Innovate

In this stage children work with the original text. As a class they 'innovate' the text. This can be done in several ways: Children in Year 1 may just switch the names of characters or change or add adjectives, whereas in Year 6, children might write the text from a different character's perspective or expand on one part of the text. In this phase teachers draw on other high-quality texts or passages to model good use of language or sentence structure. A new text is then modelled by the teacher with the children adding their own ideas. This is coupled with specific grammar work.



Stage 3 - Invent

Children apply what they have learnt in a piece of independent writing. This might be in an English session or in a piece of writing across the curriculum subject.

How can you help at home?

Over the next 3 weeks we will be looking at **writing biographies**. The children will be using the information they have learnt in their writing lessons to investigate the features of a biography. This week, the children will write a biography of a family member and on our third week the children will write a biography of Mary Anning.

We ask that you Talk! Talk! Talk!

Ask your child to describe anything and everything that they have been learning about. Can they remember key dates, can they tell you about the life of Mary Anning? Why is she famous? We are learning about Mary Anning in our Science topic at the moment so we hope the children will be excited to share this learning at home with you.

We will be sending home an interviewing sheet for the children on Monday 12 September, so that they can interview a relative at home so they can see how the biography features can be used to help retell the life of a relative. This was originally going to be sent out on Friday but due to the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II, we delayed doing so until today. Please help your child fill this out and bring it back into school, if you could complete it tonight and send it in with them on **Tuesday 13 September** ready for their collaborative writes, that would be amazing although we do understand this may not be possible for everyone.

Useful resources to use at home

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zd8fv9q/articles/zf6vb82>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/true-stories-mary-anning/zn7qd6f>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/mary-anning-facts/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfkk7ty/articles/zbj3sk7>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z2yycdm/articles/zs8strd>

If you have any questions, please speak with your child's class teacher.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs Andrew, Miss Hawkins and Mrs Spiers