



## The Big Write

Every Friday morning, your child will produce a piece of independent writing based on a different theme. Each piece of writing will require different ideas and skills.

On Thursday, they will take part in a Talk Homework lesson which will give them an opportunity to discuss what they will be writing about on the Friday. The TALK HOMEWORK will be sent home for parents to take part in (See Talk Homework letter)

The Friday lesson will begin with a lively, fun lesson that focuses on the VCOP and generates ideas for the Big Write.

They will then have an undisturbed writing session which will include time to read the writing to make improvements.

The teacher will then set super short term targets for how to make progress, next time they



There will be a parent workshop this term to explain BIG WRITE in more detail and to support parents with the TALK HOMEWORK.

If you have any queries, please let us know.

Brinkley Grove Primary School,  
Rawlings Crescent  
Highwoods  
Colchester, Essex  
CO4 9GF  
[info@brinkleygrove.essex.sch.uk](mailto:info@brinkleygrove.essex.sch.uk)

# Big Writing at Brinkley Grove

## Information for parents



***Big Writing is a whole school initiative to develop children into independent and expert writers.***

# How Does Big Write Work?

As part of our commitment to raising standards in Literacy at Brinkley Grove Primary School, we are using the BIG WRITE strategy. This is a weekly opportunity for all pupils to write independently. This is based on the principle that 'If the children can't say it, they can't write it'. The BIG Write is a fun and lively way of enriching the current literacy curriculum by encouraging thinking, talking and writing using four key aspects of writing: Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation. The children know these four areas as VCOP.

## VCOP Games and Activities

- V - extending vocabulary through games and talking.
- C - using and applying ways of joining sentences or ideas such as and, but, because, although, however, besides.
- O - opening sentences powerfully and in a variety of ways.
- P - using a variety of punctuation accurately and consistently.



## VOCABULARY

Think of at least 5 WOW words to describe a banana. (remember to use your senses)



**Vocabulary**—every child is encouraged to widen their use of language, in order to make their writing richer e.g. 'The sirens filled the sky.' - not that interesting!

However, by developing vocabulary: 'The screaming sirens were suffocating the quiet night.' is a far more interesting sentence to read!

**Connectives**—or joining words, are really important for ensuring that writing is cohesive and interesting.

Good examples are: **although, however, besides, even though, never the less, in addition to, Contrary to, despite**

So an interesting sentence could be 'I love eating pizza even though the delicious cheese is often too hot and burns my tongue!'

**Openers**—by varying the way you open sentences, writing becomes more engaging to read. **Many connectives also make good openers**, other good examples are:

**Before very long, An important thing, Having decided to, Meanwhile.**

Using adjectives at the start of sentences is also powerful eg, 'The golden sun' or 'The grumpy old man'. Varying the sentence length and word order can also help, as well as using complex sentence structures.

**Punctuation**—the 'icing on the cake', so to speak!

Children are encouraged to use

appropriate punctuation to lift their writing off the page e.g. 'We were sailing hard at 23 knots (very fast!) through perilous and ice cold waters.'

By Year Six children should be using all the following  
" " : ; , ... ( ) ? ! . - '

