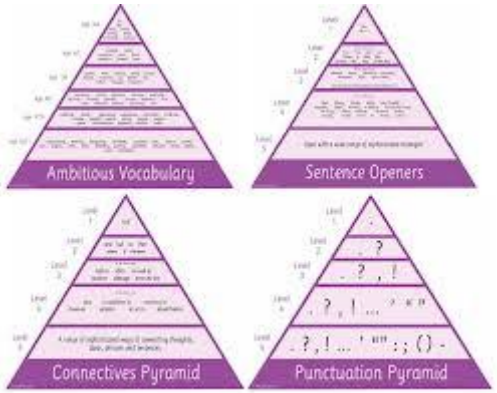
A BIG WRITING LESSON INCLUDES

- ✓ Lots of experience beforehand at writing the particular text type chosen for the Big Write, e.g. story, fact file, report, play script, poem.
- ✓ Talk Homework – discussed in class and sent home. This is very important discussion, planning and reflection time.
- ✓ A lively fun lesson that focuses on VCOP and generates ideas for the Big Write.
- ✓ An undisturbed writing session with candles, music, special pens and books.
- ✓ Setting targets for how to make progress next time they write.



PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS TO HELP AT HOME

TALK! TALK! TALK!

- ❖ Ask them to describe everything and anything!
- ❖ Take it in turns to tell a story. One person starts it, the other says what happens next etc…
- ❖ Look at a picture or photo together. Use it to tell a story. Think of a title for your story. What would the opening 10 words be?

WRITE! WRITE! WRITE!

Make it real!

Encourage them to:-

- ❖ Write letters
- ❖ Write a diary
- ❖ Take notes about a walk, a trip etc…
- ❖ Make lists – to do lists, shopping lists, lists of favourite music, games, characters, books etc…
- ❖ Use games to help develop vocabulary such as puzzles, crosswords, word games, anagrams etc…

BIG WRITE BIG TALK

Dewhurst St Mary CE Primary School

BIG WRITE

HOW DOES BIG WRITING WORK?

Big Writing focuses on the four key aspects of writing:-

VOCABULARY - every child is encouraged to use ambitious words to make their writing more interesting.

So:

The cat sat on the mat.

Could become:

The pampered cat snuggles serenely on the luxurious mat.

CONNECTIVES- words that join sentences together. They make writing more cohesive and interesting.

So:

I couldn't go to the moon. My rocket ran out of fuel.

Could become:

I couldn't go to the moon because my rocket ran out of fuel.

BIG TALK

OPENERS- by varying the way you open sentences, writing becomes more engaging to read.

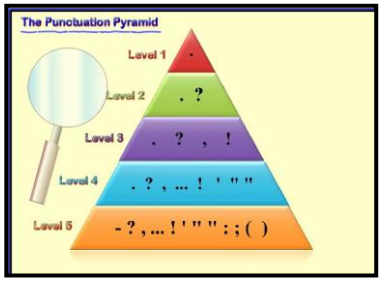
So:

I have to go home now.

Could become:

Sadly, I have to go home now.

PUNCTUATION- pupils are encouraged to use appropriate punctuation, using the 'punctuation pyramid' to level and up-level their writing.



AT DEWHURST

TALK HOMEWORK

This is a chance for your child to talk about what they are going to write during the Big Writing lesson.

- By helping your child with this, it will enable them to:-
- Think through and discuss initial ideas for their Big Writing.
- Get their writing ideas clear in their heads by thinking about and discussing the order of what they will write.

Talk homework will give parents and carers a chance to be involved in their development as a writer.

If they can't discuss and verbalise their ideas, how can we expect them To write them down?