# Fishermoss School

# Big Talk

# March 2018

**Why is Big Talk important?**

Talk is our language on paper. The better we can talk, the better we can write. The more words we know, the richer the words are and the confidence we have using those words, will all influence how well we succeed in life. We talk to get things we want or need: jobs, shopping, medical help, information, friendship, etc…

**What is Big Talk homework?**

Throughout the year your child will bring home “Big Talk” homework tasks. The Big Talk homework task will be outlined with a clear talk topic which should be discussed with your child and with other members of the family where appropriate. It is usually helpful to remove distractions in order to be able to spend quality talk time with your child.

Big Talk homework topics might include:

* Writing themes for the next week;
* Questions relating to class projects;
* Debates and presentations;
* Maths problems;
* Current affairs;
* Skills for learning, life and work;
* French.

The following helpful hints may result in more interesting & meaningful discussions:

* Each person gives their opinion on the subject
* Discuss why other family members not present might have a different idea or opinion.
* Explain why ideas and opinions may differ.
* Make links with how things were when parents or grandparents were young.
* Discuss in what way things might be different in the future.

**Opportunities for Quality Talk Time**

**When?** Bedtime **What to ask/say** *Talk to me about your day.*

Meal times *Did anything funny/interesting happen?*

In the car *Let me tell you about my day…*

Walking to/from school *What did you do at lunchtime/playtime?*

Shopping *What was the best/worst thing that happened?*

 *Talk with me about the rest of the week.*

Language development in the primary years steadily builds on the solid foundation established in the early years. Children’s attention, listening, understanding, vocabulary, speech, grammar, storytelling and conversations all develop further in terms of skills, knowledge and complexity. For more information and advice go to [www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk) or [www.communicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.communicationtrust.org.uk).