

"Learning Together, Learning for Life"

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10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

# Re: Talk Time

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have seen in your teacher's newsletter, that we are starting a new session in school called Talk Time. As part of our aim to nurture our children who are learning for life, we would like to support them in building the skills and confidence to talk to an audience.

I have led similar initiatives during my career and the development of skills to present and confidence increase in all children whatever their starting point.

The sessions will be adapted depending on the age of your child and this is set out below.

## **Early Years**:

Early Years pupils as part of their transition to the school, are invited to bring a 'special box' to share items which are important to them. They are supported to explain the contents of the box to their class. This model of having an object or objects to talk about is continued through the year on a rota of children. The children in Early Years will then bring a speaking object to school to share once every half term.

### Infants:

In Key Stage One, the children prepare a presentation at home to give to their class once a term. The presentation can be on any topic of interest to the speaker. This could be about a hobby, an interest, a pet; anything which they know a good amount about. The children should use visual resources (for example: objects, images, Google slides) to support their presentation. They should speak for about 5 minutes. The audience will ask the speaker questions and use the Talk Time feedback to give tickled pink and green for growth comments which is attached to this letter.

## Juniors:

In Key Stage Two, the children will also give a presentation to their class once a term. However, they are required to prepare a talk at home related to their topic for the term. They should also use visual resources (for example: objects, images, Google slides) to support their presentation. They should speak for about 5 minutes. The audience will ask the speaker questions and use the Talk Time feedback to give tickled pink and green for growth comments which is below.

The feedback sheet should give you a better idea of what we are aiming for. We plan to record some of the presentations and with the presenter's permission, we will save it into your Google Classroom stream to get some ideas. All the children will learn how to make their own presenting and speaking skills even better by watching each other. Everyone is different and of course for some this will be a greater challenge than for others. The teachers will support the children and further adaptations can be made for individuals if needed.

Talk Time Feedback Infant Class

			Comments (Anything perticularly good or areas for improvement)
Voice Is their voice easy to hear? Do they speak too quickly? Is their voice interesting to listen to with expression?			
Interacting with the audience Do they look at you while they are talking? Do they make you want to listen?			
Body Language Do they look like they are enjoying themselves? Do they use their hands and arms to help explain?			
Subject of the talk  Is the talk interesting to listen to? Do they tell you lots of information?			
Language Do they use interesting and exciting words?			
Structure Does the talk have a clear beginning, middle and end?			
Use of resources  Do they give you something to look at? Something to watch? Something to pass round?			
Personal organisation Do they know what they are saying and doing? Do they know where their resources are?			

The colour scale matches our use of tickled pink for successes and green for growth for things to work on.

#### Talk Time Feedback Junior Class

				Comments (Anything perticularly good or areas for improvement)
Voice				
Is the presentation easy to hear				
and of a good speed?				
Is their voice interesting to listen to with expression?				
Interacting with the audience	_	_		
Do they make eye contact with				
the audience? Do they make				
you want to listen?				
Body Language				
Are they confident? Does the				
way they move make the				
presentation better? Do they move too much? Do they need to				
move more?				
Subject of the talk		$\vdash$		
Is the talk interesting to listen				
to? Do they tell you much				
information?				
<u>Language</u>				
Do they use vocabulary which is				
technical or key to the topic?  Is their grammar correct?				
Structure	_	<del>                                     </del>		
Does the talk have a clear				
beginning, middle and end? Do				
they introduce their talk to				
you?				
Use of resources				
Do they give their audience				
something to look at? Something to watch?				
Something to pass round? Do				
they use ICT?				
Personal organisation				
Does the speaker know what				
they are saying? Have they				
organised their talk well? Have				
they got notes which they use to				
help them? Do they use these notes well? Do they know where				
their resources are?				
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Feedback I've had in the past from parents has been a shared wish that they had a similar opportunity earlier on to have the confidence to speak in front of an audience in adulthood!

We look forward to hearing some exciting things!

Yours sincerely

Vicky Wittich

(Headteacher and English Subject Lead)