

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you as we are still at the start of the school year to share some expectations and top tips around Talk Times.

Parents and visitors often comment positively around the confidence the children show in their ability to speak to an audience particularly during Celebration assemblies and our fabulous productions! Speaking is such an important life skill that, if it can be mastered at a young age, stands our children in such good stead for the rest of their school journey and life. Some of you have even said to me, you wished you had the same experience at school as it would have really helped you at interview or when presenting to a team at work.

As you will know from your class teacher, the expectations around the topic presented are different across Key Stage One and Two. The children will have already had experience of sharing things of interest to their class in Early Years and so in Bysouth Class, the children can present to their class around a topic of their choice, this could for example, be linked to a club they attend, a particular event, a special trip and so on.

For the children to be successful in KS1, it is useful to do the following:

- Make sure you use the feedback sheet (copy attached) to see what we will be looking for in the presentation.
- Make sure where possible your child has chosen the topic.
- Come up with the presentation together but make sure it is child led.
- If your child can read notes, make sure they are their notes or at least ones they can read and understand themselves.
- Your child can use a PowerPoint or Google slides to present from but this needs to be made with the child so they can follow it.
- Make sure the slides, if you use them, have images as prompts for the child and not words. Words on a PowerPoint mean that we may as well read the slides and not listen to the speaker!
- Actual props are a great addition or alternative to slides.

My own children over the years, have brought in rugby kit / ballet kit and used this just to talk with a few photos on slides. A five-minute talk on something they know and do is so much better than one that they struggle with because mum wrote it for them!

As the children move into KS2 (Layton Class), the Talk Time needs to be based around one of the topics the class are covering in school. This can be any subject which is particularly sparked interest in them and they want to find out more to present to their friends and teacher.

All of the tips from Key Stage One still apply to make them successful.


In addition:

- Please do make sure that words on notes are understood particularly technical vocabulary.
- Make sure your child knows when to transition between slides / resources.
- Keep words on notes not on the screen unless they are needed for headings / diagrams etc.
- Make sure your child focuses on the audience and not reading constantly from notes.
- AI is tempting but we can quickly tell if too much help has been used from technology!

The feedback sheet should be useful to see what was successful, but also what could be improved and we expect to notice that the children have worked on the skills to grow from one presentation to the next.

If your child is finding the process particularly hard or they do not have access to the resources they need in order to prepare a presentation, please do let your class teacher know so that they can support you.

Many thanks in advance for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Wittich', written in a cursive style.

Mrs V Wittich