

## Talk Boxes

We strive to ensure that every child in each class is highly engaged in their learning at all times. On top of this, each week we choose three children from each class to focus on. They will have a letter sent home with them letting their families know that we will be focusing on their child the following week and asking for any news on exciting things going on at home, or for any information that parents may have or want to know more about regarding their child's learning.

We provide parents and carers with the email address of their child's teacher so that they are able to email in any photographs or videos their child would like to talk about, for example they may send in photographs from a wedding attended, or a video of a dance routine that their child has learnt during a dance class, etc.

Each focus child will also take home a 'talk box.' They can fill this with anything that they would like to share with the rest of the children in their class. Some children bring in medals from events they have taken part in, some bring in their favourite toys to show everybody, some bring in pictures they have drawn at home, it's completely up to them! Each focus child then has time during the week to show the contents of their box, along with any photographs or videos emailed in, to the rest of the class. This is a great opportunity to develop children's confidence when speaking in front of an audience, as well as teaching super speaking and listening skills. The children are each focus children three times throughout the year and each time stun us all with their confidence, and with exciting glimpses into their lives at home.

We find that the process of having focus children and sending home talk boxes allows us to build strong links with families, and to develop a wonderful insight into experiences, traditions, and interests that the children have at home.

Here are some of the things that the children had to say about sharing items from home with the rest of their classmates:

"I like showing my toys to everyone!"

"I liked talking about what me and Grandad did when we saw the fire engine."

"I get to show people what I have."

"I have 1000's of things to show!"

