



# English & Maths at Thorndown Primary School

## English

### Talk 4 Writing

'Talk 4 Writing' is an approach to writing developed by Pie Corbett, the UK's leading literacy expert, which we have adopted at Thorndown. Throughout the school, we use storytelling to help the children in many ways. The children **imitate** texts, **innovate** them and then **invent** their own. We help them at every stage, stepping back when it is appropriate to do so, which allows the children to apply what they have learnt. We also produce text maps to help us. They use colour, encourage lots of talk and require actions to be performed. Writers are thieves! We all do lots of 'magpie-ing'. This is where we identify words, phrases, skills or techniques that we like and then play around with them, before using them in our own story and text making. We look at the structure of stories and other texts, and identify the ingredients (language features) that could be included, which we use to guide our own writing. Talk 4 Writing is an inspiring and engaging approach to writing and we have already noticed a real improvement in our non-fiction writing!



Text map for  
'Whatever Next!'  
by Jill Murphy

## Maths

### Shanghai meets St Ives

To kick off 2017, our Chinese teacher partners visited us from Shanghai. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning with Mrs Zhu and Miss Chen, who were very impressed by our pupils' enthusiasm and learning behaviour. Over 200 teachers and TAs from Thorndown and other schools across the region watched them teach and are now sharing what they learned with their own classes. Our teachers were particularly impressed by the use of 'stem sentences', whereby children practise talking in full sentences using mathematical vocabulary, and the carefully planned small steps in lessons. The Chinese teachers also learned about how we use resources to help our pupils develop deep understanding of mathematical concepts.

### Maths Buddies

To help children develop their number sense in Year 1 & 2, some of our Year 4 & 5 pupils have become 'maths buddies'. They meet every Tuesday lunch time and have lots of fun playing maths games, which is having a very positive impact on the younger pupils' confidence and skills. They really look up to their new KS2 friends, who are proving to be great role models.



## Spring Term

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### Reading Tip 3!

#### Sing together

Why not?

Rhythm, rhyme, raps, advertising jingles or the latest top-rated downloadable tracks can all help the older reader to appreciate and use the patterns of language they hear in both their speech and writing. Give it a go!

### Number Sense

#### Apps

We have discovered some great apps to help children develop number sense in Reception and Key Stage 1. Why not head to the App Store and take a look?

**Number Flash** - free

**Ten Frame Fill** - free

**Little Fingers** - £2.99

**Quick Math Jr** - mostly free.

Please let us know what you think. If you have other favourite apps, please tell your child's teacher or Mrs Gerrard.