**Weekly Reflection to parents**

**Second term - Week 1#**

Children have already started the new unit and are very excited and are showing curiosity by asking a lot of questions about what exploration means. The pre-topic assessment showed that they hardly have any knowledge about this unit. So, it will be filled with finding out the history of early explorers, their life and the impact their findings have on today’s world. Hoping we can take the children for a field trip where they can conduct interviews and add to their knowledge.

They are being taught the structure of non-fiction texts and what they contain in terms of the essentials of the language. Moreover, they will learn how a paragraph is constructed. The children will be taught the following;

* To look carefully at the first and last line of each paragraph.
* Highlight only necessary words and phrases, not entire sentences.
* Jot notes in the margin to paraphrase the information, merge their thinking with it and better remember it.
* When a word is italicized, a paragraph begins with a boldface heading or the text says “Most important….” Readers need to stop and take notice.
* Drawing children’s attention to photographs and captions and their importance in expository texts.
* Signal words and phrases are like stop signs which warn readers to halt and pay attention. Bring children’s attention to signal words such as; for example, for instance, in fact, in conclusion, most important, but, therefore, on the other hand, and such as…..
* Children will then make a chart headed signal words/Purpose

In reading, children are now challenging themselves in thinking skills by looking at provocative questions about the story and then responding to them. For example, one such question is, “***What life lesson is*** ***the character learning in this story?”*** Through class discussion, the answer to this question will be thought of. The children will learn that characters, people or events are presented in a particular way by the author and illustrator. At the same time, they will be looking at non-fiction texts and look at the structure of these texts. So, they will continue to read this week and look at the other questions referring to ‘***what the story is really about?***’

The writing workshop is running smoothly and the children are really enjoying the lessons learnt in the writing lesson. First and foremost, the children listened to the story, ‘Stray’ by Cynthia Rylant. They were given just the first part to read and then were asked to write the ending of the story. Few children attempted to finish the story but many failed to sustain it to the end. When they were given the real story, which was really well detailed by the author Cynthia Rylant, the children realised that they can learn from this writer. Following this, this week they will find out the strategies that the author has used to write in detail. The children will then use this knowledge to revise their endings of the story writing in detail. To conclude, they will then revise any of their pieces of writing in the first term.

The children are truly enjoying these lessons because the stations are very interesting and the children are learning a lot. They are inquiring into identifying regular and irregular polygons as well as the properties of these shapes, equivalent fractions and time. At the same time, they are learning some of the concepts covered in the first term such as multiplication. The Maths workshop is quiet as the children are engaged in exploring and learning new concepts.