

**East Sussex County Council**  
**Newick C.E. Primary School**  
**63 Allington Road, Newick,**  
**Near Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 4NB**



**Acting Headteacher : Miss N Alty**  
**Telephone/fax: 01825 723377**  
<http://newickschool.org>

"Where fun and  
learning meet."

Dear Parents/Carers,

One of our initiatives this year is to increase the vocabulary of all of our children. Research states that children with a large vocabulary, including academic and technical vocabulary, achieve highly in later life. They are able to access and understand information in books, websites and other media.

*'Vocabulary size is a convenient proxy for a whole range of educational attainment and abilities – not just skills in reading and writing, listening and speaking but also general knowledge of science, history and the arts.'* E.D Hirsch Jr

For each topic taught in class, we will be sending home a vocabulary grid. These will include a range of words linked to the class topic. We aim to send these grids home at the beginning of the topic so that you, as families, can have conversations and discussions around the meaning of the words. These are not spellings. We simply would like the children to understand their meaning and be able to speak confidently about their learning.

### **Help at Home**

- Use the vocabulary grid as a basis for discussion. Typically, children need to hear a new word 4 to 12 times before it is added to their vocabulary.
- When you introduce your child to a new word, try to keep a mental note of it and work to use it again in your conversations with your child.
- It is also important to use the word in a variety of different contexts, wherever it applies.
- Don't be afraid to throw in a word that you had focused on previously. Repeated exposure is one of the best ways to master new words.

If you are interested in reading more about the research behind this initiative, '*Closing the Vocabulary Gap*' by Alex Quigley is highly recommended.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Alty