

Information for families

Why is your child's school taking part in No Pens Day 2023: Show and tell?

- Teachers estimate that, in the UK today, 1.9 million children struggle with talking and understanding words. Without the right support, they face huge hurdles in learning, making friends and staying in good mental health.
- By bringing in £1 and taking part in No Pens Day 2023, you and your child can help raise money to support children who struggle with talking and understanding words.
- It's a chance for your child to improve their speech, language and communication skills through a day of talking and listening activities – starting with the biggest ever show and tell!

Help your child take part by...

- Helping them choose something that they would like to bring in or talk about for show and tell. This could be:
 - An object from home that they love
 - An item of clothing
 - A photograph of a person who they want to talk about
 - A photograph of a special memory
 - Something imaginary! They don't have to bring anything in – they could just think of something they want to talk about.
- Helping them practise doing show and tell with their chosen item. They could mention:
 - What it is
 - Why they love this item/memory/imaginary thing
 - When they got it/did it
 - Who gave it to them/who they were with
 - What's special about it

- Make sure they bring in £1 to take part in show and tell on the day. All money raised will go to Speech and Language UK – a charity that supports children who struggle with talking and understanding words.

After the day...

- Have a chat with your child about how No Pens Day 2023 went. It's probably best not to ask your child about this as soon as they come out of school – unless they happen to initiate a conversation about it. Children often need to switch off for a bit when they first get home from school. Try to wait till they seem ready to chat. A good time to talk about this might be at the table while you are eating tea, snuggled up together on the sofa while sharing a snack, when you are walking somewhere together and are not in a hurry, or possibly at bedtime when you are saying good night (provided it's not too late!)
- Some of the things you could say to your child include:
 - I'd love to hear about your "show and tell" today. How did it go?
 - What did your friends/teacher ask you about X? ("the thing you took in to school"?)
 - How did you feel when you were talking?
 - What did you tell them about it?
 - What did some of your friends talk about?
 - Did you learn anything new today?
 - How did it go/feel not using a pen/pencil today?

