

# BIG WRITE

This year we are starting to allow children the opportunity to write independently over a range of genres etc.

During 'Big Write' children will have the opportunity to talk about various objects, stories, news etc. and discuss what they think the object is or what happens next in the story.

This time to talk is crucial to the children as it allows them to explore their ideas in a safe environment where no-one will judge or laugh and where they can be confident to explore even the strangest of ideas.

Once children have had the chance to talk they will then be given 20 minutes to write without support on the different genres. Children are able to use cue cards such as our grapheme cards to help them but adults are only allowed to support through encouragement rather than helping with spelling etc.

At the end of each session children have the opportunity to sit with the class teacher and go through what they have written. Together they highlight the areas that went well and look for possible targets that they will work on for next time. This allows children ownership of the next step of development and also means they want to achieve their new targets next time.

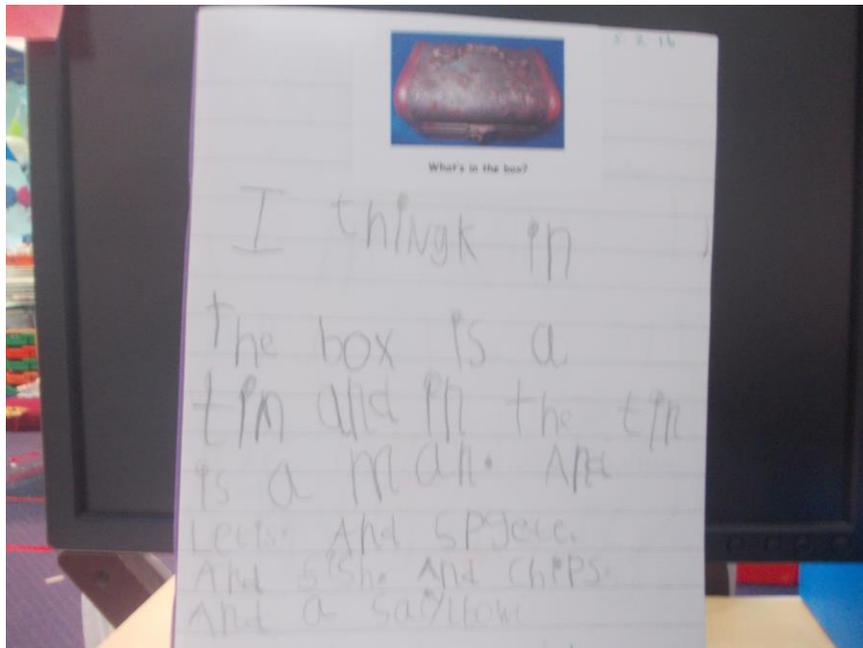
Below are some of the objects we have used so far.



## **What's in the Box?**

Children were able to feel the box and noticed something was inside. It seemed to 'move' on its own and the ideas began flowing from the children.

*Below is an example of a piece of work written by Alice.*



**What alien brought the moon rock and put it in the box?**

During this session children found a 'rock from the moon' inside the magic box. We discussed how it got there and what sort of alien might have put it there. Children then opened their books to find an alien sticker inside. The children had to write a description of the alien they saw as well as some of the things he/she liked etc.



Children then found an 'alien' who had come down from the moon to work with them. Children were then able to continue their learning in our Learning Through Play sessions by building the alien a home and helping him understand the different things around the classroom etc.