Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to explain a new initiative we are launching next week to encourage meaningful conversations with children. It is based on talk threads and your child will be given one a week to engage with both in and outside of school as appropriate.

It should be a natural thing which can happen at any time – maybe when you are doing a chore together for example so no need for a formal “set time”. The idea would be to start the talk thread such as: “What makes you happy?” The secret is then to actively listen, making eye contact as you face your child in an encouraging way. At first, they may not offer too much but try to answer and explore with the 5 Ws (who, what, why where, when) and a how question to further explore. If you reply to their comments with “and?” deeper thoughts and reflections can follow.

Please share your thoughts and successes with us – there is no “right” way to do this but research is well-documented to show that the most powerful gift we can give anybody is to actively listen to them. Have fun and watch out for each new talk thread or maybe send in one of your own!

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Wills and Mrs. Webster