

Tahirih's group



This morning several children brought up the fact that there are only 3 weeks of school left. The morning conversation was around dates and potential plans for the winter break. Shiloh and David are excited about spending their holiday together at David's family farm up north. The other's are still not sure what they will be doing but the idea of being able to spend more time with their friends is something which they are looking forward to. With our holiday plans and dreams shared, we were able to talk about the weekend news, reflect on the achievement/recognition process and our plans for the week. Today Jethro had a recognition! He decided to wear his birthday present all day. He turned 11 this weekend and his present was a new Arsenal soccer outfit. Andisiwe was also recognized for her ability to keep the agreements for 3 days! She chose to celebrate with some barbecue slathered slop chips from Just Janes.



As on most Mondays this term, the class selected words for a new spelling list. Today the list's theme was words beginning with 'sh'. To support their learning, I asked the class to use the 15 words they selected to create story. Here is what Andisiwe came up with. See if you can find all the spelling list words!



“Sean went to see Shiloh. They went to the ocean. Then Shiloh got shocked because he saw a shark but Sean didn't see it. Shiloh said, “Did you see that?” “No,” replied Sean, “What is it?” he asked. “There was a shark in the water when Sheldon went near it. The shark came into the shallow water where Sheldon was. He was shivering like a fish which just lost its toe! Then came this penguin which was laughing at him like it was a comedy show or something. Then I saw this big shadow from the waves...Suddenly I saw a big shell on the shore. The shell was shining like a golden egg. Then the shark sheared Sheldon's hair off. It was like he came from a barber shop. His head was too shiny! I couldn't even look at him. Then this shadow was separated from it's tree and while he was going to his shack, the shadow went with him.”



I can see that this weekly word exploration is influencing the children's relationship to their writing. Talking about words, their spelling and their meaning seems to come up a lot this term. Their ability to integrate their spelling rules which they encounter one weekly basis is supporting their ability to understand what they are reading as well. Most importantly I have noticed how children support each other and they rarely come to ask me how to spell words any more – they have each other (and the dictionary) as a reference. This form of peer learning is always powerful!



11th June 2007