

## ***No Pens Day Wednesday returns in October 2012 – put down pens and pick up language!***

Last year, staff and pupils from over 800 schools put down their pens using resources and lesson templates developed by **The Communication Trust**.



Backed by a number of leading academics, ***No Pens Day*** will help you develop your pupils' communication skills; skills which are now part of the new Ofsted framework.

The Trust will be providing more exciting FREE activities, lessons plans and a media toolkit so you can promote your endeavours. You can either join efforts nationally on **Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup>** or run your day whenever suits you. And don't forget, No Pens means no marking!

To register, just fill out our **simple online form** and we'll let you know when the resources are ready.

The schools involved last year loved it, why not join in too?

- *The buzz in the staffroom was such that I suspect we will be instituting a No Pens Day at least termly!*
- *Children's confidence in communication grew as a result of No Pens Day. The day culminated in a debate where children spoke sensitively and respectfully, listened well and showed excellent all-round communication skills*
- *No Pens Day was great. It was particularly rewarding to see children who frequently struggled with the written word totally animated and engaged when forming crisp and concise sentences that elevated the level of sentence structure*
- *Thanks for the wonderful resource bank, lesson plans and assembly which made the day so much easier to participate in*

## ***It's time to shine: Shine a Light 2012 awards now open!***

Want to tell the world about the great work you do in school to support children's communication?

The *Shine a Light 2012 Awards* celebrate and reward best practice and excellence around supporting children and young people's communication and honour those who make a difference to those with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). Run by The Communication Trust and Pearson Assessment, categories include '**Primary School of the Year Award**', '**Secondary School/College of the Year Award**', '**Team of the Year Award**' and '**Communication**



## Champion Award’.

Last year’s awards raised the profile of more than 48 different settings across the UK with winners reporting the tangible differences *Shine a Light* made to them.

*Winning a Shine a Light Award made school staff even more aware of the value and worth of their hard work and commitment to developing children’s language. It gave us recognition for what we believe we should see in every school for every child. The children and our families were very proud we had won a national award and it was mentioned by Ofsted in our report* **Watercliffe Meadow Primary School in Sheffield, Shine a Light winner**

Find out more at [www.shinealightawards.co.uk](http://www.shinealightawards.co.uk)

The application deadline is midnight on **September 21<sup>st</sup> 2012**.

Want to be inspired? Click [here](#) for the stories from last year’s winners.

### ***Stay in touch!***

You can [sign up to our newsletter](#) to receive up to date news and resources

The Trust is undertaking work to support schools to raise attainment and meet the communication needs of all their pupils, if you would like to be involved, if you have any feedback or any questions about SLCN, please email [enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)

With thanks,

### **The Communication Trust**

[enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)

The Communication Trust is a coalition of nearly 50 voluntary organisations with expertise in speech, language and communication. We provide resources, information and training to help you to make sure every child is understood.

