



Wednesday 25th February 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

During this half term, we are going to have a 'Poem of the Week' each week. Poems are a great way to increase children's vocabulary, reading, speaking and listening and, most importantly their love of language. To encourage your children to read, learn and enjoy poems, they will shortly be receiving their own poetry book. This book will have the poem of the week stuck in each week, so that they can read, practise and respond to them at home. This will be an important part of the children's home learning and you can help!

Here are some activities you and your child could do at home to help the children to enjoy poetry:

- Read the poem of the week to your child and discuss it with them – whether they like it, dislike it, what they like about it, what it makes them think of...
- Encourage them to read it to you or, if the reading is difficult for them, read it together, get them to repeat lines back to you and practise using expression.
- Encourage children to learn the poems off-by-heart by reciting them in the car, on the way to school or at any other times. Practise/rehearse any parts they find difficult together.
- Encourage your children to write their own verses or poems in response, using ideas.
- Make lists of interesting or exciting words that they enjoy, this could be used to improve their writing and broaden their vocabulary.
- Encourage them to illustrate their poetry books with pictures that relate to the poem.
- Find other poems that you enjoyed as a child and share them together.
- Show your child that you enjoy and value poetry – have fun with it, and encourage them to look after their poetry books.

We will also be recording members of staff reading the poem of the week and putting them on our website for the children to listen to, so please keep an eye on the website for those!

We hope that you find this a rewarding and fun way to both boost your child's literacy skills, and spend quality time together.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Stanton

Mr T Stanton

