**World Book Day 2023 – Thursday 2nd March 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

***As always, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March 2023. The children are invited to come to school on that day dressed as their favourite book character (please still dress appropriately for the weather and going outside).***

This year we are going to have a focus on children’s poetry and are launching our ‘Off by heart’ poetry competition.

We are setting the children the exciting challenge of learning a poem off by heart and performing it to their class.

Attached to this letter/email, you will find a selection of poems for each Key Stage (FS is Reception, KS1 is Year 1 and 2, KS2 is Year 3 and 4). The children are asked to pick the poem that takes their fancy and then spend the next few weeks or so learning it ‘off by heart’. Practising over half term by ‘performing’ to family members, creating videos or voice notes would be perfect!

Alternatively, your child may have a favourite poem or rhyme of their own that they would like to perform to their class. If so, they are more than welcome to practise their own poem for the ‘performance’ instead. No child will be ‘forced to perform’ their poem in front of their class should they not want to do so, but we will try to encourage as many children as possible.

One or two children from each class (who want to) will then go on to perform their poem in our special World Book Day assembly. We understand that performing a poem in front of an audience can be very exciting but also quite daunting, so here are a few tips to help get them performance ready:

**Top Tips for Performance Poetry to share with your child**

The best way of learning a poem is not to try and do it all at once. Little and often, line by line, is often the best approach. You could all have a go at learning one! Staff and parents are encouraged to have a go at this too as this will also give the children encouragement. Also try to:

* Tell the ‘story’ of your poem or rhyme
* Think about how you use your voice: volume, tone, intonation, pace and rhythm
* Think about how you use your body: facial expressions, eye contact and physical gestures
* Think about how you use your space.  Poems can work brilliantly with lots of movement or actions, but can be equally powerful with hardly any. Think about the kind of poem have you chosen
* Practise, practise, practise: you will have more than a week to prepare for your class ‘performance’, so don’t leave it until the final evening to try to learn it
* Be brave – it can be scary, but you can do it!
* Have fun!

The children may get ‘right into’ their poem and may like to write it out in their best ‘Russell writing’, draw illustrations to go with it etc. We would love to see all their ideas come in with them on World Book Day.

As always, thank you for your amazing support. We can’t wait to celebrate World Book Day with you.

Caroline Johnson Nicki Walker

English Lead Headteacher