



JUNIOR, INFANT AND PRE-SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS: KIRSTEN O'DONOGHUE BA (HONS)

18 May 2022

Dear Parents,

### **Verse Speaking Competition – Monday 6 June 2022**

This year, we will be hosting a new and exciting poetry event: 'The Verse Speaking Competition'. This competition will allow every pupil at School to showcase their amazing talents when performing a poem of their choice. The emphasis will be on bringing the poem to life and performing with fabulous expression and clarity.

#### **How does it work?**

Every pupil from I1 to J4 should now select and learn a poem of their choice off by heart. It can be humorous, philosophical or melancholy; in fact, it can be about any topic. If your child would prefer to write their own poem, this is also permitted. The poem must be at least four lines long but there is no maximum length – within reason of course! The pupils may have a copy of their chosen poem to hand, just in case they forget their lines. Although costumes are not permitted, props may be used.

Your child's chosen poem should be handed in to their Class Teacher by **Wednesday 25 May**. Once your child's poem has been checked by their Class Teacher, they can begin to practise their performance at home.

On **Monday 6 June**, each pupil will perform their chosen poem to the rest of their class. The Class Teacher and the pupils in the class will use a scoring sheet to judge the performances on both their expression and clarity. The highest-scoring pupil from each class will become 'a finalist' and will go through to the 'Verse Speaking Final' on **Friday 10 June**. Here, they will perform their poem in front of School and to a panel of judges. The judges will then score and determine one winner per year group and one overall winner.

This should present yet another wonderful opportunity for all our pupils to perform to an audience, encouraging them to develop their public speaking.

#### **Where can the pupils find their poem?**

##### **Books**

Perhaps visit your local library, the School library or your local bookshop. Look for books like 'The Works', which contain a range of poems by different authors, or alternatively have a look for specific authors that write poetry. The following authors are a good place to start: Roger McGough, Alan Ahlberg, Roald Dahl, Benjamin Zephaniah and Michael Rosen are just some of the authors you can look for. A book called 'Hip Hop Speaks to Children' available at [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk), is a great celebration of poetry with a beat. Learning poetry to music can often be a great way to commit the lines to memory, whilst being fun and enjoyable too.

##### **Online**

Try the websites below. Many of them have audio or video by the authors to help you hear what the poems sound like when read out loud.

[childrenspoetryarchive.org](https://www.childrenspoetryarchive.org) A useful site with readings by the poets themselves. Have a look at the themes section and explore the poets.

[fizzyfunnyfuzzy.com](https://www.fizzyfunnyfuzzy.com) A range of funny poems by Gareth Lancaster.

[poetry4kids.com/poems](https://www.poetry4kids.com/poems) Excellent, funny poems by Ken Nesbitt.

[poetryguy.com](https://www.poetryguy.com) Poems (and great videos) by Ted Scheu.

We look forward to seeing our talented KGS pupils bring poetry to life!

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs L Wilson**  
**Assistant Head (English)**