Pupil Voice: World Book Day 2024 – *Poetry in Motion!*
A Celebration of Poems, Performance and Play

World Book Day 2024 at Aston Rowant was a celebration of rhythm, rhyme and creativity. This year's theme centred on **Poetry**, and from the moment the children arrived, the school was full of imaginative costumes inspired by their favourite verses and rhymes. We welcomed a *fox in his socks*, a *cat in his hat*, characters from *Revolting Rhymes*, *nursery rhymes*, *Mrs Butler* (though no Derek Drew!), and many more inventive poetic creations.

The whole day was spent working in our mixed-age House teams, giving pupils the chance to explore a wide range of poetry in different styles and formats - from performance to blackout poetry, illustration to creative writing.

🎤 Hedgehog Class – Performance Poetry
Children learned how to bring poems to life using expression, volume and vocal changes. They experimented with performing lines loudly, softly, slowly and quickly.

Pupil Voice:
- "*I didn't know my voice could make a poem sound completely different!*"
- "*I liked performing in a group because we sounded like a real show.*"

📰 Squirrel Class – Newspaper & Blackout Poems
Using newspaper clippings, pupils cut out favourite words to build their own poems. They also created blackout poetry by removing words from a printed text until only their chosen poem remained.

Pupil Voice:
- "*It was like discovering a secret poem hidden inside the page.*"
- "*I liked choosing words that didn't usually go together but still made a poem.*"

✨ Fox Class – Alliteration, Personification & Magic Dust Poems
Starting with the shared opening line *"When I blew the magic dust…"*, pupils created their own poetic lines using alliteration and personification. Dictionaries became a key resource, helping pupils discover rich, exciting vocabulary.

Pupil Voice:
- "*My line was 'When I blew the magic dust, the mountains murmured…' — I loved making the mountains talk!*"
- "*The dictionary helped me find new words that sounded like magic.*"

At the end of the day, the class compiled their poems into a **beautiful poetry book**, ready to be displayed after Collective Worship.

🎨 Owl Class – Painting Poetry with 'The Highway Rat'
Using *The Highway Rat* for inspiration, pupils created artwork to illustrate the poetic rhythm and imagery of the story. Their paintings captured dramatic scenes, characters and landscapes.

Pupil Voice:
- "*My painting looked like it had jumped straight out of the poem!*"
- "*I liked choosing colours that matched the words.*"

📚 Book Swap & Reading Community

We ended the day with a joyful book swap, where children shared recommendations and chose a "new-to-you" book to take home.

It was heart-warming to see pupils sit down with their swapped books immediately, lost in their new stories.

Pupil Voice:

- "*Someone picked a book I love - I told them all the reasons why!*"
- "*I found a book I've never seen before and I'm going to read it tonight!*"

Thank you to all families for the generous book donations - they were very warmly received and will continue to support our reading culture.

🌟 A Wonderful Atmosphere Across the School

During the day, the school was filled with a purposeful buzz. Children were engrossed in their tasks, collaborating beautifully across year groups and celebrating one another's ideas. The variety of poetry work helped pupils express themselves, try new techniques and discover the joy of creative language.

As one child said: *"It was the best day - we made poems in so many different ways!"*

Another successful, inspiring **World Book Day at Aston Rowant** - full of imagination, collaboration, and the magic of poetry.