

Poet Visit: A Wonderful Afternoon with Tony Peek

We were thrilled to welcome the celebrated performance poet Tony Peek into school for an enriching afternoon of poetry, creativity and laughter. His visit made a significant contribution to our school's commitment to developing reading for pleasure, confident communicators, and a strong poetry culture across all age groups.

Tony began with a lively whole-school assembly that had pupils (and staff!) completely absorbed. His energetic delivery, humour and storytelling instantly captured the children's attention. The hall was filled with giggles, gasps and enthusiastic participation as he showed how poetry can be playful, powerful and accessible to everyone.

Hedgehog Class – Poetry Through Movement

After the assembly, Hedgehog Class enjoyed a highly interactive session exploring poetry with movement. Tony encouraged the children to see poetry not only as words on a page but as something that can be *felt* and *performed* using the whole body.

Pupils learned how actions, gestures and physical expression can help communicate rhythm, emotion and meaning. They experimented with moving like the characters or images in their poems - leaping, tip-toeing, swooshing and stretching - discovering how movement can spark imaginative language and help ideas flow. The session built pupils' confidence, coordination and understanding of how poetry speaks to all the senses.

Squirrel Class – Alliteration and Collaborative Writing

In Squirrel Class, Tony worked closely with the children to craft alliterative poems in pairs. He modelled how repeating initial sounds can create humour, rhythm and vivid imagery, before challenging pupils to invent their own combinations.

Working with a partner, pupils explored playful language such as:

- *Whirling whispering winds*
- *Bouncing bubble-bursting bears*
- *Sizzling slithering snakes*

Tony encouraged them to be bold, inventive and joyful with their words. The activity strengthened pupils' vocabulary, phonics awareness, teamwork, and understanding of how poetic devices enhance meaning. The classroom buzzed with excitement as each pair proudly shared their creations.

Fox Class – Writing and Performing with Rhythm

Fox Class took part in a session focused on rhythm, flow and voice within poetry. Tony guided pupils through techniques for shaping the beat of their writing - clapping syllables, marking stresses, and experimenting with pace. Children then composed their own short poems, paying attention to the musical quality of their lines.

Pupils had the opportunity to share their poems aloud, exploring how rhythm changes when performed. This strengthened both their oracy skills and their confidence as emerging poets. The atmosphere was warm, supportive and full of creative energy.

Owl Class – Poetry Enthusiasm and Performance Craft

Tony was particularly impressed by the passion and maturity of Owl Class. They embraced every task with enthusiasm and were eager to perform, experiment and refine their poetic voices.

During their session, pupils:

- explored how performance techniques enhance meaning
- worked collaboratively to shape strong imagery
- delivered their poems with clarity, expression and flair

Their confidence, creativity and willingness to take risks were clear. Tony praised them for their focus, engagement and impressive ability to bring poetry alive for an audience.

A Memorable Visit That Enriched Our Curriculum

Across the afternoon, Tony Peek's visit showcased:

- high levels of pupil engagement
- strong development of speaking and listening skills
- increased confidence in writing and performing poetry
- widened cultural capital through meeting a working poet
- deepened understanding of poetic devices across classes
- a joyful whole-school celebration of language

We are extremely grateful for the time Tony spent talking with pupils, sharing his passion for poetry, and inspiring children across the school. His visit has left a lasting impact, and many pupils have already begun writing their own poems with renewed excitement and confidence.

Another fantastic enrichment opportunity - and a real celebration of poetry in our school.

