

World Book Day 2024

A Celebration of Poetry, Creativity and Reading for Pleasure

World Book Day 2024 was a joyful celebration of reading, poetry and creativity across our school. The variety of costumes was amazing - from *Fox in Socks* and *The Cat in the Hat* to characters from *Revolting Rhymes*, nursery rhymes, and even Mrs Butler (though sadly no Derek Drew!). The children arrived excited, proud, and ready to immerse themselves in a full day of literary enrichment.

A Whole-School Focus on Poetry

Throughout the day, children worked in their House teams giving them opportunities to collaborate across year groups and strengthen our sense of community. The learning was rich, varied and purposeful, showcasing a broad range of poetic forms and techniques.

Exploring Performance Poetry

Mrs Hall and Mrs Olsen led engaging sessions on performance poetry, teaching children how to use pace, volume and expression to bring a poem to life. Pupils explored when and why to speak loudly or softly, and how a simple change of voice can transform meaning. These activities significantly supported children's oracy skills, confidence and creativity.

Newspaper Poetry and Blackout Poems

With Mrs Biggin, pupils experimented with different ways of constructing poetry using newspaper cuttings. They selected words and phrases that caught their eye, arranging them to form imaginative and often surprising poems. Children also created blackout poems, using a black pen to conceal words on a printed page, leaving behind only those selected to build their own verses. This activity encouraged deep thinking, inference skills, and a fun approach to language.

Alliteration and Personification

In my class, we explored poetic devices such as alliteration and personification. Starting with the line "*When I blew the magic dust...*", children crafted their own alliterative lines and illustrated them. Access to dictionaries supported vocabulary extension and helped pupils broaden and refine their word choices. By the end of the session, a wonderful collection of poems had been created, reflecting both imagination and increasing technical skill.

A compiled book of the children's poems has now been produced and will be on display after Collective Worship on Friday. This will serve as a proud celebration of their work and an ongoing inspiration for others.

Art Inspired by Poetry

Mr Manning used *The Highway Rat* as a stimulus for a cross-curricular art session. Inspired by the poem, children created paintings of key scenes and characters, demonstrating strong links between reading, imagination and visual art.

Ending the Day: Our Whole-School Book Swap

We finished with a hugely successful book swap, where children recommended books to one another, chose something new to read and immediately settled down with enthusiasm. It was heart-warming to see pupils so engaged in reading for pleasure and sharing their love of stories.

A Wonderful Atmosphere Across the School

Throughout the day, I had the opportunity to visit every class. The atmosphere was vibrant and purposeful, with children fully engrossed in their activities and collaborating beautifully across all ages. The buzz of creativity and the excitement around poetry and books was evident everywhere.

World Book Day 2024 was a resounding success, reflecting:

- our strong commitment to reading for pleasure
- high-quality opportunities for oracy, creativity and cross-curricular learning
- a school culture where books, language and imagination are celebrated

Thank you to all staff, pupils and families for helping make this such a memorable and enriching day.

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