

## National Poetry Day 2025 – Celebrating Poetry Through ‘Play’

This year’s official national theme was **‘Play’** - encouraging children and adults alike to experiment with language, enjoy the fun and rhythm of words, and explore how poetry can spark joy, humour and creativity.

Across the country, schools were invited to engage in playful poetry activities, celebrating the imaginative and liberating power of verse.

At our school, each class embraced the theme in their own way, exploring different types of poetry and sharing their learning during Celebration Worship, where parents were invited to enjoy performances and hear pupils’ reflections on poetry.

### Class Celebrations

#### Early Years – ‘Leaves Are Falling’

Reception children learned and performed the autumnal poem ‘Leaves Are Falling’, using actions to show how leaves move, swirl and fall. Their performance highlighted early rhythm work, expression through movement, and the joy of shared recitation.

#### Years 1 & 2 – Performance Poetry with Brian Moses

KSI explored Performance Poetry, learning Brian Moses’ humorous poem ‘Walking with My Iguana’ - a lively piece about taking a pet iguana for a walk along the beach. The children enjoyed experimenting with pace, voice and expression, discovering how performance brings a poem to life.

#### Years 3 & 4 – Playing with Words

Years 3 and 4 engaged in wordplay by creating compound-word poems, experimenting with how playful combinations can spark imagery and humour.

They also studied **‘Kieran’** by Berlie Doherty — a powerful poem exploring playground difficulties — and spent time unpicking its meaning, emotions and message. The contrast between playful word poems and a more reflective piece helped deepen their understanding of poetry’s range.

#### Years 5 & 6 – Resilience and Rhythm with Mike Bird

Upper Key Stage 2 read, memorised and performed ‘Before I Was Yo-Yo Champion of the World’ by Mike Bird - a poem that uses repetition, humour and rhythm to explore growth and resilience through play.

Inspired by the structure, pupils crafted their own versions using repeated phrases, beginning with:  
*“Nan bought me a yo-yo, and first my skills were so-so...”*

Their performances showed excellent confidence, vocal control and creativity.

### In the Words of a Pupil

Our school vision and values are central to everything we do, and this week we were delighted to see how poetry helps children articulate their feelings and beliefs with honesty and pride.

A special thank you goes to Elsie (Year 3) for writing this beautiful poem inspired by our school values:

*I trust all my friends and teachers too  
We work as a team in perfect harmony  
We show outreach to anyone in need  
All of us are resilient in our work and play  
We wonder in our lessons to imagine what we can see and do  
I am grateful to be at this school.*

Her poem captures the essence of who we are as a community - thoughtful, caring, creative and rooted in shared values.

### A Wonderful Celebration of Creativity

National Poetry Day 2025 was a joyful reminder that poetry belongs to everyone. Whether through performance, playfulness, movement or reflection, our pupils engaged deeply with language and demonstrated confidence, imagination and expressive skill.

The theme of **‘Play’** encouraged children to rediscover the fun of poetry - and to recognise that poetry is not only something we read, but something we can *create, share and enjoy together*.