

Author Visit Poet James Carter

Rhythm, Rhyme and Rocket-Fuelled Poems

We were thrilled to welcome James Carter, award-winning children's poet, musician and performer, for an exciting day of poetry as part of our English Enrichment Week. James is known for his energetic performances and his ability to bring poetry alive through music, humour and storytelling.

He read different extracts from his books, *Once Upon a Star*, *The Big Beyond* and *Once Upon a Raindrop*, to the children. These books – full of rhythm, science, imagery and playful language – formed the heart of his visit. He explored his poems during his assemblies and workshops and encouraged the children to magpie his ideas.

James began the day with two captivating poetry assemblies. Accompanied by his guitar, he performed poems aloud, demonstrating rhyme, repetition and spoken-word rhythm in ways that instantly grabbed the children's attention. He talked about how poems can grow from daydreams, sounds, questions and curiosities, giving pupils a genuine insight into the creative process. His assemblies were joyful, musical and highly interactive, setting an inspiring tone for the day.

The workshops were equally impressive. With Hedgehog and Squirrel Classes, James led the children in crafting and performing a lively 'Crazy Creatures' poem. He encouraged them to play with sound effects, alliteration and nonsense words, showing them that poetry can be fun, physical and wonderfully silly. The pupils' confidence grew visibly as they rehearsed and performed their class poem.

In Fox Class, James introduced pupils to the structure of kennings, modelling how these compact poetic phrases can build vivid images. The children produced powerful and imaginative lines of their own, combining words in adventurous ways and experimenting with metaphor and precise vocabulary. James' warm, humorous style made every child feel involved and excited to write.

We were deeply touched to receive his message afterwards:

"A huge thank you to you all for all being so brilliantly responsive and creative today and for making me feel so very welcome! What a really lovely school you are! Please send me happy poems as and when – I look forward to reading them!" with best wishes James

His praise reflects not only the children's enthusiasm but the strong culture of creativity in our school.

