

Michael Rosen Day 2024 – Poetry, Oracy and Reading for Pleasure English | Quality of Education | Personal Development

On Tuesday 12th November 2024, we celebrated Michael Rosen Day, dedicating our English lessons to the work of this much-loved poet and author. The day provided a rich and purposeful opportunity to promote reading for pleasure, develop writing skills, and strengthen pupils' oracy and performance confidence.



A highlight of the day was a live webchat with Michael Rosen himself. During the session, he read some of his poems aloud, spoke to the children about his life and experiences as a poet, and answered questions submitted by pupils.

This real-world encounter with an author brought English learning to life and inspired pupils to think more deeply about the purpose, craft and enjoyment of poetry.

"It was exciting because a real poet was talking just to us."

"I liked how he used his voice to make poems funny."

High-Quality Curriculum Implementation

In Fox Class, pupils worked collaboratively to write a class poem inspired by Michael Rosen's 'Breakfast Time'. Children explored humour, rhythm and structure, building their understanding of how poets use language for effect. They then focused on developing spoken language skills by rehearsing and performing 'A Little Boy Came Down for Breakfast', paying close attention to intonation, expression and timing.



"Performing the poem made me feel more confident speaking in front of people."

"We had to think about how our voice changes the meaning."

These activities supported pupils in meeting English curriculum objectives relating to:

- Using spoken language to develop understanding through discussion
- Composing sentences orally before writing
- Developing fluency and expression when reading aloud



In Owl Class, pupils explored Michael Rosen's poem 'Everyone is From Somewhere' and used it as inspiration to write personalised verses that reflected their own identities and experiences. This activity encouraged thoughtful self-expression while strengthening pupils' control of language, structure and vocabulary.

The pupils then rehearsed and confidently performed their poems during Celebration Collective Worship on Friday, sharing them with parents, carers and the wider school community.

"I felt proud sharing my poem because it was about me."

"It felt special performing in front of parents."



Developing Oracy, Confidence and Cultural Capital

Throughout Michael Rosen Day, pupils demonstrated high levels of engagement, enthusiasm and confidence. The opportunity to listen to, question and learn from a published author enriched pupils' cultural capital and strengthened their understanding of writing as a real-world skill.

The performances showcased:

- Clear articulation and expressive spoken language
- Growing confidence in presenting work to an audience
- Respectful listening and positive feedback between peers

Parents who attended Celebration Collective Worship commented positively on the pupils' confidence and enjoyment, reinforcing the impact of embedding oracy within the English curriculum.

Quality of Education

Michael Rosen Day provides strong evidence of:

- A well-sequenced English curriculum that prioritises reading, writing and spoken language

- Explicit teaching of oracy as a key component of literacy
- High levels of pupil engagement and motivation
- Opportunities for pupils to apply learning in meaningful contexts

Pupils were able to remember, articulate and perform what they had learned, demonstrating secure understanding and effective application of skills.

English Curriculum Impact Summary

Intent:

- To develop confident readers, writers and speakers
- To promote reading for pleasure and enjoyment of poetry

Implementation:

- Whole-school focus on a significant contemporary author
- Live interaction with the poet through a webchat
- Structured opportunities for writing, rehearsal and performance

Impact:

- Pupils demonstrate increased confidence in spoken language
- Strong engagement with poetry and performance
- High-quality writing informed by purpose and audience
- Positive pupil voice reflecting enjoyment and pride in learning

Michael Rosen Day was a joyful and highly effective celebration of English learning, combining creativity, confidence and connection with an author in a way that will stay with pupils long after the day itself.