

Poetry By Heart

Pinner Park Primary School
**POETRY BY
HEART**

Choose a poem • Learn it by heart • Perform it out loud

Poetry by Heart - School wide celebration of poetry

We celebrated World Poetry Day this week by launching this year's school-wide poetry event!

Each child is asked to choose a poem, learn it by heart, and perform it out loud! Children will perform their poem in class after the Easter holiday.

Two children from each class will be selected to go through to a year group 'semi-final'. From that group, two children will be selected to go through to perform their poems in assembly (and to be video-recorded for our website).

Learning a poem and reading it out loud is an amazing thing to do, which is why we're setting it as homework for every child in the school.

We will encourage and help your child, especially if they feel a little nervous, and we hope that you will help them at home. The more practice they have, the more confident they will be.

The collection of poems is attached to the email. There are a good range of poems - something for all ages and abilities. We're asking the children to be aspirational and ambitious in their choice!

You are also welcome to choose a different poem, of your own choice, if you wish. If you choose a poem which isn't in the collection, please send a copy to school so that we can help them when it's their turn to perform.

Learning the poem is the homework for this week and for the Easter holiday. We hope everyone enjoys reading the poems and practising to perform it out loud!

Top Tips for Learning a Poem by Heart

Choose a poem. Learn it by heart. Get ready to share it aloud.

Here's the challenge: find **one** poem you love, learn it by heart and get ready to share it aloud after Easter.

1. Find a poem you love

Look at our poetry collection. Explore the collection and find a poem you love, or one you quite like and want to get to know better. If none of those poems inspire you, choose one of your own!

2. Learn it by heart

There's no short cut to this. Like getting to know a new friend, you have to make time to do things together. Read your poem aloud to other people, illustrate it, write out the lines and stick them on the fridge door.

Remember its sections as if they are scenes in a slow-motion movie or rooms in a house. Repeat the lines while you're walking the dog. Recite it to your cuddly toys, or in the shower, or in front of a mirror.

Give someone else the poem and get them to test you.

Repetition is the key! Keep going until you've got it – you'll get there!

3. Share it aloud

Once you know the words, think about how you want to say them. When starting to recite poetry, everyone goes too quickly – slow right down!

And then slow down some more, especially where the punctuation and line breaks give you clues about this!

And get your audience ready to listen – count to 10 before you start. Keep it much slower than your usual speech – let your listeners savour every word.

Don't be tempted to add lots of extra emotion or actions – everything you need is right there in the words. Think about the ending – you want to keep your listeners hanging on the last word for one more second, thinking about what they've heard before they all start clapping.

Recite it on the way to school, in the park or at home. Get someone you know to learn a poem too and perform your poems to each other, live and in person, over the phone or by video chat.

You could make a video and share it safely with friends and family too.

Above all, enjoy learning your poem!

The other children and all the staff are here to encourage and congratulate you!

Continuous Homework Continues!

Although the 'Poetry by Heart' activity is our main homework for this week and the Easter holidays, we want you to continue to keep up with all the regular home learning activities. These will depend on your child's year group but will include:

- **Reading** – the most important daily activity you can do with your child!
 - Reading decodable books from school which match your child's phonics knowledge
 - Sharing other books together and reading to your child
 - Visiting the library and getting excited about books and reading
- **Maths Apps** – a little every day is ideal!
 - Numbots for younger children
 - Times Tables Rockstars for older children
 - 1-Minute maths app from White Rose maths for younger children ([click here for more info](#))
- **Writing** – great to keep those writing skills going during Easter
 - Why not write a story over the Easter holiday
 - Try keeping a diary over the Easter holiday
 - Create a scrap book of all the things you get up to over the holiday

The Circus is coming to Pinner Park!

Thursday 9 May - Here at Pinner Park!

Tickets, priced £10, on sale from **6pm on Monday** (under 2s go free if sat on a parent's lap but you will need to book a ticket for them).

Tickets on sale through Classlist or through a direct web link which we'll share with you by email.

Tickets will be strictly limited to 600 so get in quick once tickets are on sale!

Be prepared! Click here to read our Event and Ticket Information:

<https://bit.ly/Circus2024Info>

