



# Archbishop Cranmer Church of England Primary Academy

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*'Striving for Life in all its Fullness'*

Dear Parents and Carers

We are looking forward to our traditional Off By Heart Poetry Competition this term – a wonderful opportunity for the children to showcase their talents once again. The main event is scheduled for Wednesday 26th March, with the class heats taking place the week of 10th March. Teachers will send home poetry choices next week.

Poetry recitation is a wonderful way for children to build their public speaking skills. Our school community has long been proud of its students' confidence on stage, whether in Nativity plays, assemblies, KS2 Shows or our many exceptional solo singing performances throughout the year. We all know the how performing helps to build confidence, articulation and self-expression: skills that are also nurtured through this poetry event. The experience of learning, rehearsing and performing a poem contributes significantly to the strong sense of confidence and poise seen in our productions. Benefits which go beyond the classroom: the discipline of memorisation is something that will serve the children well throughout their academic careers.

[The poetry foundation](#) states that performing a poem can offer pleasures unlike any other experience of literature. *"Words mean more than what is set down on paper,"* the poet Maya Angelou has written and poet Ian Bland aptly states, *"It will stick in the minds of your children forever, giving them a little cultural signpost pointing back into their experiences at school. They will amaze their family and friends with their flair for memory and drama, and be inspired to create their own verses and original poems."*

We understand that learning a poem by heart can feel like a challenge, but we want it to be an enjoyable, rewarding experience. As always, we encourage children to take part at a level that suits them best and we ask for your support as they practise at home. Celebrate their progress along the way, knowing that this process helps build valuable skills that will support them in both school and life.

During the week commencing **10th March**, children will recite their chosen poem in their classroom, an opportunity to celebrate each child's effort. In the following week, three children from each year group will go on to perform in the final, which will be held in front of the whole school, parents, and a panel of judges. Prizes will be awarded to the top recitals, but every child's effort will be celebrated as part of this special event.

We are excited to see how each child will engage with this event and look forward to seeing them develop confidence and articulation.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We can't wait to see what our talented children will achieve this year!

**The Archbishop Cranmer Team**

