

May 2026

Dear families

Stretch - Cycle 3 – Poetry Slam

What is Poetry Slam?

As part of the English curriculum, students will be taking part in a poetry slam. This is a lively performance art combining writing, acting and audience interaction. Poets are judged based on their live performance. The poetry uses devices like rhyme, metaphors and similes to convey messages. Delivery aspects such as tone of voice, gestures and facial expressions are key to keeping the audience engaged. Poets memorise their work and perform without notes to stay connected with the audience.

Students will research, plan and write their own poems in school, related to their year group topic. This prepares students for tasks at secondary school and develops essential independent learning skills to help them climb their mountain to university. Students benefit by developing their communication skills, both speaking and listening, as well as building their confidence when presenting in front of their peers.

Within school, students complete their poems during Stretch afternoons which involves them exploring the different devices and techniques within poetry. Students will be planning and writing their own poems related to their year group topic, see table below. Students will then take their written poems home to allow them time to rehearse. Students are encouraged to learn their poems off by heart. They will then present their poem to their class, two winners per class will be selected based on a scoring system. The two finalists from each class will then take part in the Poetry Slam finals where overall winners and runners-up are chosen. Finalists will be awarded with a printed DMP poetry anthology, and copies will be available for the school library and classrooms too.

Year Group	Topic
Year 2	Nature: plants, animals, seasons
Year 3	A magical world: Dragons, Fairies, Superhero's
Year 4	Friendship, kindness, helping others
Year 5	Sea or Space: Sea creatures, aliens, ocean, planets
Year 6	Dream talks

At home, the poems can be presented digitally or on paper. The use of borders and/or images are encouraged but it is not essential as they are not being judged on the presentation. Should your child wish to submit a digital copy of their poem, they should be sent to the individual class email addresses, for example:

huddersfield@dixonsmp.com or nottingham@dixonsmp.com. In the 'Subject' box of your email, please state: 'Poetry slam' and student name.

The booklets that your child/children use in class for research and to draft and write their poems will be sent home, all lessons will be completed, and final drafts of their poems will be checked by the class teacher. These



booklets need to be brought back to school when poems are handed in. The deadline for this is the week beginning **22.6.26** for in class finals; Key Stage finals will be held on **29.6.26**.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Keenan & Miss Mahmood
Year 4 Teachers and Poetry Slam leads