



Monday 15th September 2025

HJS's Annual Poetry Competition

Dear Parent/Carer,

This year's theme – Play and Games

This term we are once again holding our annual Poetry Competition, linked to National Poetry Day on **Thursday 2nd October**. This year, the theme will be: **Play and Games**. Each child in the school will be creating a poem on National Poetry Day and will be able to perform this poem to their class for the competition or perform a different poem of their choice. Each class will then vote on which poem they would like to represent their class in the year group semi-final. Class teachers will decide when the class and year group rounds will be taking place and they will let the children know in advance. The winner of each year group semi-final will progress to the whole school grand final on **Monday 20th October**, where the winners from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will compete to be crowned 'Hampton Junior School's Poetry Competition Champion'.

Participation in the Poetry Competition is compulsory. We expect each child to perform their own poem however, if they would prefer, they can find and perform a poem written by another author. The poem can take a variety of formats, not limited to an acrostic, a ballad, a limerick or a free verse poem. The poem should take no more than two minutes to perform. Children can perform their poem individually, or can work in a pair with someone from their own class. If children feel it will enhance the meaning of their poem, they can incorporate props or a visual aid (e.g. a poster of an acrostic poem) into their performance. However, **no electronic aids**, such as PowerPoint presentations, will be allowed. Children can have a copy of their poem, or cue cards, to read from if they choose.

Poems will be judged on a range of criteria:

- How closely it links to the theme of 'Play'
- How well you speak: are you speaking loudly and clearly, without rushing or mumbling?
- How well speakers engage with the audience: are they making eye contact and drawing the audience into the performance?
- Has the poem been performed within the two-minute time limit?

To help with performances, we suggest that children practice beforehand, firstly on their own and then either in front of family members or a video camera!

If you have any questions regarding the poetry competition, then please speak to Mrs Kabamak or your child's class teacher.

Mrs Kabamak
English Coordinator

