



The Manor
Preparatory School

To Parents of Children in Years 1 and 2

Friday 17 January 2020

Dear Parents

Poetry Festival 2020

The Manor Poetry Festival is held during the Spring Term and it is an opportunity for all the children in the school to celebrate poetry in its many forms. Our Festival will be launched by a visit from celebrated poet **James Carter**, next Friday 24 January.

James will lead our assembly in the morning, performing his poetry and talking about what it is like to be a real live poet!

James will be signing copies of his books on the day which will be available for you to buy at £6.99 each. If you would like your child to purchase a book, to avoid disappointment, please complete the online reply slip [here](#) by midday on Tuesday 21 January.

Following this visit, we are asking the children in Years 1 and 2 to choose a poem to learn and perform to their class.

The children may choose a poem together with you or look at the suggested list posted in the Pupils' Own Pages of the school website (under the heading *Poetry Festival*).

Your child may start learning and rehearsing their chosen poem now, ready for after half term. They will then have the opportunity to perform their poem to the class. A couple of children will be selected from each class to perform in our special Poetry Festival assembly on Thursday 27 February 2020. They will be invited to perform their poem to an attentive audience from Years 1 and 2 along with a special visitor.

We hope that the children will enjoy the performance aspect of the poems they have chosen, and entertain us with their interpretations. Please do support your child in choosing a poem appropriate to their age, reading ability and audience. Short, lively performances are often best, and movement and actions are to be encouraged!

Children learn a huge amount about poetry and the rhythm of language by memorising a poem and by watching their classmates' performances, and the Festival is intended to be a fun, enjoyable event for all concerned.

Best wishes

Emma Gower
Head of Years 1 and 2