



The Manor
Preparatory School

To Parents of Children in Years 3 to 6

Friday 17 January 2020

Dear Parents

Poetry Festival 2020

We are delighted to announce this year's Manor Poetry Festival, an event designed to inspire 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**, on **Friday 24 January**. He will start the day by taking our assembly, and then lead workshops with all pupils in Years 3 to 6. It should be a hugely exciting day for pupils to explore, write and perform their own poetry as well as listening to others.

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 that visit, all pupils in Years 3 to 6 will be asked to **choose a poem to memorise** for performance just before half term. We encourage pupils to find their own poem and then show it to their class teacher or English teacher for approval before learning it.

Your child will learn and perform their chosen poem to their class or English group the week before half term. A few children from each year will then be chosen to perform in our special Poetry Festival event on Friday 28 February, in front of an attentive audience from Years 3 to 6, and our special guest, poet **Andrew Jamison**, who teaches English at Abingdon School. Parents of pupils performing will also be invited.

We hope that the children will enjoy the performance aspect of the poems they have chosen and entertain us with their interpretations. Children learn a huge amount about poetry by memorising a poem and by watching their classmates' performances, and the Festival is intended to be a fun, enjoyable event for all concerned.

With best wishes

Fiona Lewis
Head of English