



Sand Hutton and Warthill Federated
Church of England (VC) Primary Schools

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POETRY

The more children can play among the waves, the rhythms, the rhymes and the music inherent in spoken language, the more they are developing memory.

Stephen Fry

This term Mrs Scott and Mrs Wilson have had training called the *Poetry Basket*. They will be using their skills to teach short poems to your children. This will be done orally and with actions. Your children might come home and share these poems with you.

Learning poetry as well as being part of the curriculum helps children to develop their ear for language. The Poetry Basket includes thirty-six poems and the poems will be learned by heart over the course of the year.

How will this benefit my child?

- Learning poems together is an enjoyable way of experiencing the play of language.
- Saying poems out loud emphasises the sounds and rhythms of language or the syllables contained in each word, a vital part of learning to read.
- When reciting a poem with actions, children discover and use new words in an almost effortless way. It is as if the rhythm and the structure of the verse give context to these unfamiliar phrases.
- Poetry develops the skill of prediction, where the rhyming structure of the poems allows children to think about what word might come next.
- As children recite poetry, the neurons in their brain light up. By repeating and learning new poems regularly, they strengthen their ability for memorising in this way.
- The more poems children hear and recite, the more capable they become at recognising and memorising patterns, a vital part of early maths.

We are looking forward to making poetry accessible and fun for your child. Any questions please contact your child's teacher.

Best wishes

The Infant Class and Class One Team