

# St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

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Headteacher: **Peter Barfoot**

Dear Parents

## 'Off by Heart' Poetry Competition

We are very excited to announce that St Mark's will be holding the first 'Off by Heart' Poetry competition to be held in school for many years.

For this competition we are asking all the children to learn and perform one of the poems in the anthology enclosed with this letter. Children can do this on their own, in pairs or in a group. It is important that they know their poem by heart and have a performance that brings the poem to life.

The children are welcome to use props and costumes, but this is not essential.

Our Book Week this year will run from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, with a focus on books of poetry.

The children will be reciting / performing their poems in class on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March and the three winning entries from each class will go through to the Grand Final, to be held in the hall, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Parents, family members and the classes of finalists are invited to join us for the Grand Final. Our panel of judges will be considering:

- how well the poem has been learnt
- how clear and loudly the poem is delivered
- the overall performance of the poem

The best way to learn a poem is not to try and do it all at once. Little and often, line by line, is often the best approach.

Staff and parents are also encouraged to have a go as this will also give the children some extra encouragement !

Good luck and have fun learning your chosen poem.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Shone  
English Subject Leader



## 'Off By Heart' Poetry Competition - EYFS / Key Stage 1

### At The Zoo

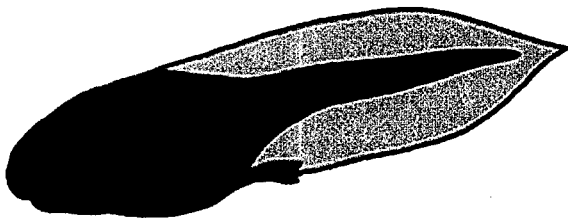
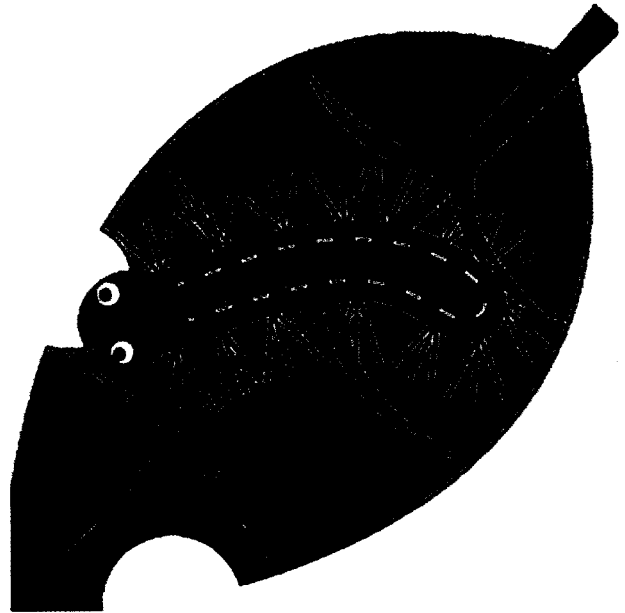
First I saw the white bear, then I saw the black;  
Then I saw the camel with a hump upon his back;  
Then I saw the grey wolf, with mutton in his maw;  
Then I saw the wombat waddle in the straw;  
Then I saw the elephant a-waving of his trunk;  
Then I saw the monkeys-mercy, how unpleasantly they-smelt!

*by William Makepeace Thackeray*

### Caterpillar

Brown and furry  
Caterpillar in a hurry,  
Take your walk  
To the shady leaf, or stalk,  
Or what not,  
Which may be the chosen spot.  
No toad spy you,  
Hovering bird of prey pass by you;  
Spin and die,  
To live again a butterfly.

*by Christina Rossetti*



### The Tadpole

Underneath the water-weeds,  
Small and black, I wriggle,  
And life is most surprising!  
Wiggle! waggle! wiggle!  
There's every now and then a most  
Exciting change in me,  
I wonder, wiggle! waggle!  
What I shall turn out to be.

*by Elizabeth Gould*

### The North Wind

The north wind doth blow,  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will poor Robin do then?  
Poor thing.  
He'll sit in a barn,  
And keep himself warm,  
And hide his head under his wing,  
Poor thing.

*Anonymous*



### The Grand Old Duke of York

The grand old Duke of York he had ten thousand men.  
He marched them up to the top of the hill  
And he marched them down again.  
When they were up, they were up  
And when they were down, they were down  
And when they were only halfway up  
They were neither up nor down.

*Anonymous*

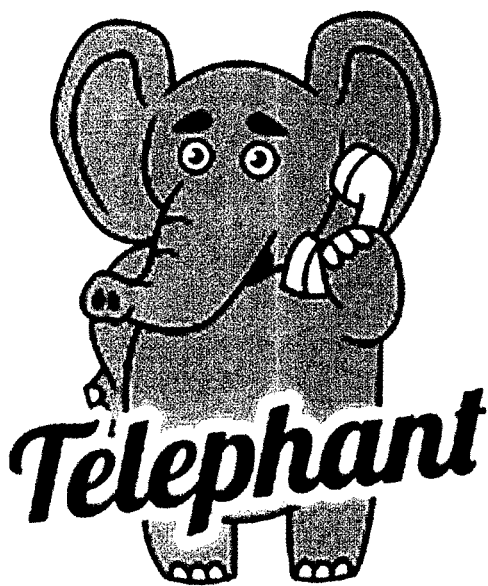


### The Pancake

Mix a pancake,  
Stir a pancake,  
Pop it in the pan.

Fry the pancake,  
Toss the pancake,  
Catch it if you can.

*by Christina Rossetti*



### Eletelephony

Once there was an elephant,  
Who tried to use the telephant.  
No! No! I mean an elephone  
Who tried to use the telephone.  
(Dear me! I am not certain quite  
That even now I've got it right.)  
Howe'er it was, he got his trunk  
Entangled in the telephunk.  
The more he tried to get it free,  
The louder buzzed the telephee.  
(I fear I'd better drop the song  
Of elephop and telephong!)

*by Laura Richards*

### Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet  
Eating her curds and whey,  
Along came a spider,  
Who sat down beside her  
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

*Anonymous*



### Sing a Song of Sixpence

Sing a song of sixpence a pocket full of rye,  
Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie.  
When the pie was opened the birds began to sing,  
Oh wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king?  
The king was in his counting house counting out his money,  
The queen was in the parlour eating bread and honey  
The maid was in the garden hanging out the clothes,  
When down came a blackbird and pecked off her nose!

*Anonymous*

**No Harm Done**

As I went out  
The other day,  
My head fell off  
And rolled away.

But when I noticed  
It was gone,  
I picked it up  
And put it on.

*Anonymous*

**Fisherman Chant**

Sister river  
Brother river  
Mother river  
Father river  
O life giver  
O life taker  
O friend river  
What have you  
in store  
for a poor  
fisherman  
today?  
From my boat  
I cast my net  
to your heart  
O friend river  
and I hope  
you return it  
gleaming with silver



O friend river  
Sister river  
Brother river  
Mother river  
Father river  
O life giver  
O life taker  
O friend river  
What have you  
in store  
for a poor fisherman  
today?

*by John Agard*