
Monday 6th March 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you about this year's Oratory Cup competition. The children were introduced to this year's public speaking competition in a virtual assembly today. This year's theme is: **someone who inspires you**. As a reminder, this competition is for all children in years 1-6 and children will need to prepare their speech to share in class for **Monday 20th March** (2 weeks today). If you have a child with specific needs, then your child's class teacher will approach you about an alternative option.

Last year, the children in Years 1 – 6 put on a great variety of poetry performances and the year before it was something they were passionate about. We were very proud of all of the children, especially as some were nervous about the prospect of speaking in front of their peers. However, they were delighted once they had performed their speech and were proud of themselves for taking on the challenge. Being able to speak confidently in front of others is a fabulous skill to have and is an important part of our curriculum as well as developing skills for their future.

As like previous years, the Oratory Cup will form part of the children's home learning. They may want to take inspiration from the 'Little People, Big Dreams' book series, many of which we have in the library or talk about someone closer to home such a family member, sibling or teacher e.g. scout leader. The list is endless and we look forward to hearing all about the different people that inspire them. Things the children may want to talk about could include, who the person is, a brief history of them, what they have achieved, why they inspire them. They can be as creative as they like.

During the assembly today, we discussed what a good speech would look and sound like. The main areas that the judges will be listening and looking for include:

- Articulation
- Breath and projection
- Pace
- Expression
- Gesture and movement

The children are invited to bring in something that could support them in their speech e.g. a photograph or prop. They also have the option to learn it off by heart, have a few notes or read from what they have written. The speeches need to be no longer than 3 minutes but at least for a minimum of 1 minute. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

We look forward to hearing all of the fantastic speeches that the children will prepare.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Morgan
English leader

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