



**Peareswood**  
Primary School

## **Reading aloud: fiction and poetry**

Clare Beresford  
Harriet Jones  
Emma Constable

### **Our School Values**

**Resilience**

**Teamwork**

**Respect**

**Pride**

**Curiosity**



Peareswood Primary School is situated in Erith as part of the London Borough of Bexley. Our school is two form entry ranging from nursery to year six.

As a school we are working on developing a reading for pleasure culture.

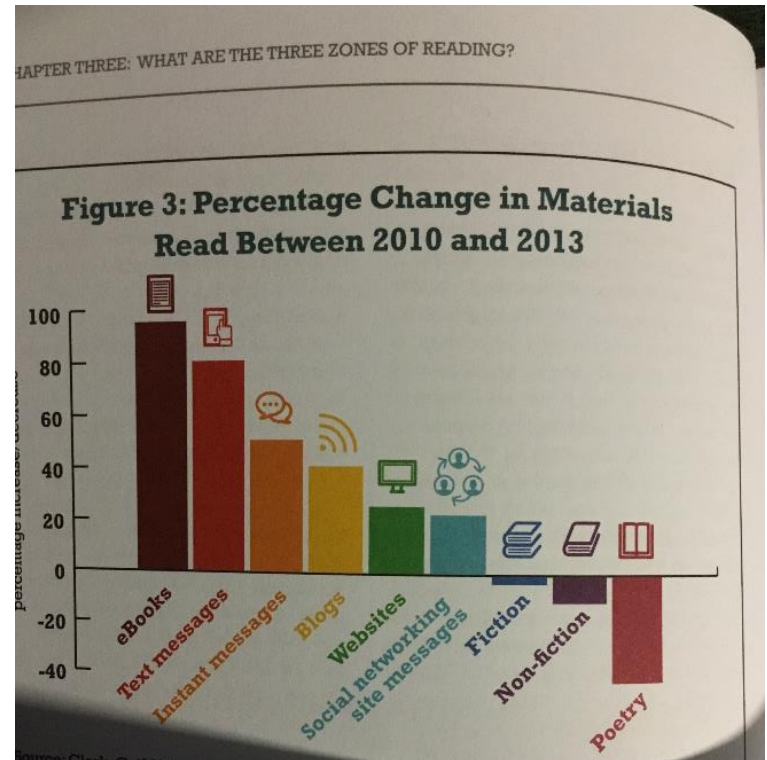
This year we have worked on developing reading aloud and building staff and parent confidence to do this.

We carried out staff and pupil surveys, and found that 100 % of teachers stated they enjoyed teaching and reading poetry but could only name one poet. 75% of teachers stated that they didn't feel confident teaching poetry.

Pupils enjoyed listening to poetry but 87% struggled to name poems and poets.

The TaRs research (Cremin et al., 2009) identified reading aloud as a crucial strand that enables children to access rich and challenging texts.

*Hooked on Books: Transforming the teaching of reading* by Jane Considine (2017) identified that there has been a decline in reading poetry and fiction between 2010 and 2013.



(Considine, 2017)



- To develop and inspire a love of reading and reading aloud.
- To inspire a love of poetry through developing teacher knowledge of poets and poems which would in turn build their confidence to teach poetry in class.



We launched an initiative to record teachers reading stories and make the videos available at home. They were uploaded onto the school's Facebook page so pupils and parents could access them at home. This created a buzz around school and pupils were talking about who was going to read the next story. We have won a Kent Literacy Award for this initiative!





# Outline

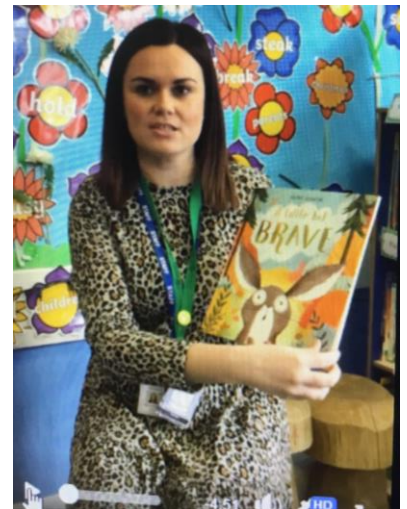


We launched a poetry week where teachers were given a poetry pack and reading poetry was undertaken daily.

Classes read and discussed poems and poets and then performed poems in groups and as a class.

During the week children became more familiar with poems and poets and developed a repertoire of poems they could read aloud.

The children also developed their own poems using the features they had identified throughout the week.







- Pupils are talking about the books they have read
- Pupils are actively seeking poetry books from book corners
- Staff are sharing good poems that they have found
- We are being asked if we are doing any more videos for Facebook
- Pupils are writing poetry confidently in class
- The children are enthusiastic about poetry and are talking about learning and performing one to the class.



## **Reflection**

Promoting reading aloud is valuable time with classes that is often brushed aside – it is essential that it happens and if teachers don't value it pupils won't either.

We need to lead by example.

Poetry has a higher focus at school than it did before.

## **Next Steps**

Knowledge of poetry is to be added to the staff CPD.

More reading promotions across the year including a 15 places to read challenge.

Parent workshop on reading aloud.