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■ Pupils from Robert Blair Primary School in Islington performed a variety of pieces for a special poetry competition featuring students from nursery to Year 6. Photos by Polly Hancock.



Budding poets light up the school

Robert Blair Primary School pupils took to the stage for an annual poetry recital day

Budding performers went in front of their classmates, teachers and parents at Robert Blair Primary School for a poetry recital.

The theme of the poetry day – which saw classes from nursery to Year 6 collaborating on pieces – was ‘awe and wonderment’, one of the 16 ‘habits of mind’ the school works with to support its attitudes and dispositions towards learning.

Subjects mused upon by students included planets, flowers and holidays, but the eventual winners was the Year 1 class which performed ‘if I could fly’.

The children created the pieces from scratch and together worked out the best way to perform the poems to grab the audience’s attention and win the competition.

Headteacher Michelle Bahn said:

“The rationale for running the competition in the first place was so that we could find a fun way to help the children improve their speaking and listening skills, widen their vocabulary and increase their confidence in performing.

“I’ve seen this done at another school, however I was astounded at the quality of the poems and the performances the children came up with – and it was their first attempt.

“The language and movement came together so beautifully. I can’t wait until next year’s competition.”

■ There was a huge performance element to the poetry recitals, with many students happy to get creative on the day. Photos by Polly Hancock.

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