



## **Proposal to support the rich development of poetry at Edinburgh Primary**

Otherwise Education - Jonny Walker and Adisa the Verbaliser

We hope that you like the ideas contained in this initial proposal. We would be very excited to work with you at Edinburgh Primary, to help embed a sustainable and enticing poetry culture at your school. The proposed ideas here would be adaptable, and we could weight the support towards whichever areas you are particularly keen on.

Adisa and I currently run Poetry Retreats with schools in Newham, taking pupils out to the New Forest and the South Downs to spend a week finding themselves, expressing themselves and getting to know one another. We also collaborate on Speechmaking celebrations. We feel our experience, approach and philosophy is highly compatible with what you are looking for.

What's more, Adisa is Walthamstow-based and would love to be your local neighbourhood poet!

You may be interested to learn more about our Poetry approach on the Collins blog, here - <https://freedomtoteach.collins.co.uk/poetry-retreats-primary-kids-sunsets-reflections-togetherness/>

Should you wish to discuss any part of this proposal in more detail, please feel free to contact me at [jonny@otherwiseeducation.com](mailto:jonny@otherwiseeducation.com)

We look forward to hearing back from you.

*Jonny Walker and Adisa*



**Proposal: our work with Edinburgh Primary could be all of, or a combination of, the elements below**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Co-development of a whole-school Reception - Year 6 poetry canon (with Jonny)	Through consultation with SLT/English leaders in which we clarify the desired scope and focus of poetry in Edinburgh Primary, Jonny will develop an Edinburgh Poetry Canon, outlining the poems we would want all children to encounter during their time at Edinburgh. Key aims will be to ensure the canon is representative of pupils' cultures and life experiences, whilst also opening their eyes to the world and to some 'classics' of poetry.	£200 <i>To happen in September</i>
<b>Staff CPD on teaching poetry as reading:</b> introducing, sharing, performing and analysing different forms of poetry (with Jonny)	If the above canon is taken on, this after-school training could 'launch' the school's canon to staff, and the CPD could explore different ways of analysing, performing and breathing life into poems chosen from the school's canon.	£150 <i>In Autumn Term</i>
<b>Staff CPD on teaching poetry as writing and performance/oracy:</b> leading outdoor poetry sessions and on drawing inspiration from the world around us for creative writing purposes (with Jonny and Adisa)	A 1.5 or 2 hour CPD session that draws upon our approach that we run in our Poetry Retreats. The session will take place in an outdoor local space - most likely in and around Queens Road cemetery. Adisa and Jonny will each lead different two writing exercises in the local area, exemplifying how these sessions could be taught. We return to school for the final half hour, to explore how to craft and edit without losing children's momentum and enthusiasm.	£300 <i>Perhaps better early in Autumn Term as well, for weather purposes and to 'launch' a focus on poetry</i>
<b>Ongoing visits from Adisa as a 'Poet in Residence'</b> (with Adisa)	Adisa is Walthamstow-based and would be able to visit regularly, on a termly or half-termly basis (depending on budgets) to support and embed poetry across the school. This could include workshops with pupils, performances and other forms of ongoing collaboration to be agreed directly with Adisa, once other Poetry plans are in place.	£225 for a half-day £400 for a full-day <i>Dates across the year to be agreed with Adisa</i>

<p><b>Support to run, organise and host a Edinburgh Primary Festival of Poetry</b> (with Jonny and Adisa)</p>	<p>Towards the end of 2019-20, a celebration of pupils' learning which will be a space for the whole community to gather around the power of words. Children from different classes to share choral speaking/oral poetry performances across a wide range of poetic forms (epics, sonnets, battle raps, limericks) including poetry that they have composed themselves. At an evening event on the same day, parents, staff, pupils, Jonny and Adisa will be able to share their own poetry and poems of others, as well as showcasing pupils' work from across the school.</p>	<p><i>All to occur within the Summer term 2019-20</i></p> <p>Half-day of planning for Edinburgh Primary Festival of Poetry project with Jonny - <b>£100</b></p> <p>Full day of support with pupils on choral speaking/oral performance with Adisa and Jonny <b>£400</b></p> <p>Full day of support, organisation and event facilitation for the Edinburgh Primary Festival of Poetry with Jonny and Adisa (AM - rehearsal with all pupils, PM - whole school performance, after school - evening poetry celebration with whole community) <b>£400</b></p>

Additionally...

The brief that we received mentioned a desire to develop long-term poetry partnerships at the level of the borough.

We would be keen to work with a group of schools to develop Walthamstow or Waltham Forest-wide initiatives, perhaps working with Edinburgh Primary School as a lead school.

- a) Poetry Retreats - Adisa and I run a successful primary Poetry Retreats project with schools in Newham. In Nov 2019 we are running a project with the New Vision Trust schools, and also in Nov 2019, we are running a separate project with schools from the Elmhurst Teaching School Alliance. **We would be keen to explore running a poetry retreat project with four, five or six primary schools in Waltham Forest in the Spring or Summer Term.**
- b) A 'Waltham Forest Schools Poetry Festival' - prospectively working with all schools in the borough, we would gladly work as a strategic partner to bring an event like this together, perhaps supported by the council. A celebration of children's creative output, with a carousel of workshops led by established poets, as well as a large recital, at which children from all participating schools would be able to perform.

These ideas can be considered separately to the support being brokered here for Edinburgh Primary through Creative Schools.