

Dear Parent/Carers

Well done to all children who attended Transition Day last week. It was a delight to meet the new - almost - year 7 children and hear from them about their dreams, hopes and aspirations. I was especially impressed with their enthusiasm, curiosity, passion and zeal. Transition by its nature is an exciting time, but also one that can bring on all sorts of feelings; nerves, fears, worries. But last Thursday I saw a group of young people coming together to begin forming their new community that will see them through the next seven years (and beyond).

When I met the children at Transition Day, I spoke to them all about the importance of stories. That we are all made of stories: hundreds of them; thousands, maybe, even millions... We never stop collecting stories most of the time, forget that collecting stories is even what we are doing as we hear them or tell them. Here is an example of what I mean. I asked the children to think about their 'first story,' perhaps it is about a favourite toy they had when they were much smaller? What did it mean? Why was it the favourite? These little memories become part of our children's first collection of stories. I asked them to add to these stories by thinking about their time in Primary school. Perhaps starting in reception, the games played, that 'best teacher in the world' who was super kind or funny or creative. Perhaps it's the story of the recent year 6 production, the nerves felt before show time, then the pride after the performance.

We tell stories because often they show us having to be brave, to overcome an obstacle. They are stories of us being resilient. Children talked about the subjects they were excited about, the ones they felt they were not so good at and of things about school that surprised them.

I shared with the children this poem, which I hope you enjoy as you celebrate your efforts and endless hard work in supporting your children to be the best they can be.

## **Stop the World by Zoro Weil**

Stop the world  
so I can leap onto  
a rainbow and  
cartwheel down a  
carnival of colour

Stop the world  
so I can watch  
a galaxy of buds as  
they unfurl into  
starry flowers  
slow blink by  
slow blink

Stop the world  
so I can caper with  
the clouds and  
float puff-like into  
anything I want

Stop the world  
so I can run roaring  
with lions and  
be on their team

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whenever they need me

Stop the world  
so I can smell each  
throbbing scent as it  
circles and  
whirls its way into  
the big fat air

Stop the world  
so I can pop inside  
a polka dot  
and decorate any  
bustling butterfly

Stop the world  
so I can plunge  
under the sea and  
discover every  
fish-slippery  
secret

Stop the world  
so I can rocket  
through the stars  
and count all the  
zillions of light beams

Stop the world  
so I can scrunch up in a  
soft-sailing snowflake and  
see winter through  
a prism of shiny crystals

Stop the world  
so I can look  
inside myself and  
discover all the

deep down

ready to burst

hidden


magic

So whilst joining a new school as a new Year 7 is a multitude of emotion, it is also a moment for pause and reflection. What has been achieved in 11 and 3/4 years? Those 'moments' deserve celebration as we get ready to mark the next exciting rite of passage. As you head into the summer holidays, I wonder how many of these ['50 activities to do before you turn 11 and 3/4'](#) the children can tick off before starting Haggerston school in September?

Furthermore, Haggerston School Library has put together a list of reading books that are stories to support children with transition, you may find it helpful to read one or two together over the summer break.

The Library is also hosting a summer reading challenge, the information can be found within their newsletter. The children can hand in their completed 'reads' to the Library in September to be in with a chance to win an 'Amazon Voucher'.

<https://haggerston.hackney.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Year-6-Transition-Reading-List.pdf>

 Summer Reading Challenge 2023 .pdf

I look forward to getting to know the children and their families in the coming academic year. Have a wonderful summer.

Ms Siddiqui.