**Playing Out Community Writing Project 2017**

Thursday 6 April 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

We are taking part in the ‘Playing Out Community Writing Project’ organised by Angie Cottle and commissioned by Derbyshire County Council through the Arts Derbyshire Writer’s Residence Initiative.

Many of you will be familiar with the Little Echoes writing project which enables local children to see their writing published in a book. This year things are a bit different; Little Echoes has become *Playing Out* and this year we are after **YOU** for **YOUR WRITING**! Parents of Curbar Primary School children, family and friends, older brothers and sisters, Nannas and Grandads… this is your chance to write and **BE PUBLISHED**!

It is a unique opportunity to join with friends, family and the community to share our experiences of playing outside from Cliff Bottom to Cliff College, from Curbar Gap to Calver Peak.

There are several community events planned (see flyer) but we are supporting the project in school by doing the following:

* In class, the children will have prepared, planned and written a draft based on the ‘Playing Out’ theme.
* This will be sent home on **Thursday 6 April 2017**. If you would like to submit your child’s writing, we ask that you word process the writing and email it to [playingout2017@outlook.com](mailto:playingout2017@outlook.com) by **Friday 28 April** at the latest. You may also want to spend some time talking to your child about their writing and making a few final improvements. We do ask that your child is identified as the author. We also ask that you complete and return the consent form attached to this letter if you would like your child’s writing to be read, judged and to be published in a volume. There is a competitive element to the writing and we plan to offer some prizes within school!
* Don’t worry if you don’t want your child’s work to be published. You don’t have to submit it via email. We are sure that an exciting stimulus will allow the children to complete a high quality piece of writing in school regardless and it is an opportunity to talk to your child about writing.
* If you are having problems supporting your child with word processing after Easter, please contact your child’s class teacher to make alternative arrangements. We will be able to help.

And that’s it! Please refer to the flyer on the reverse side of this letter and the submission form for further information. Please note emails received after the close of school on Friday 28 April will not be submitted.

We will keep you informed of when the volume is available for purchase.

So what are we waiting for? Let’s get writing!

Yours sincerely

Mr Simon Beahan

(Headteacher)

**PLAYING OUT**

This year your annual writing project is bigger and more exciting than ever! Curbar Primary School has the opportunity to be involved in a writing and arts project that includes you, your teachers, school staff, your mums, dads, nanas and grandads, aunts and uncles, friends and neighbours and yes, even your big brothers and sisters!

Playing Out is a community project funded by Derbyshire County Council. We want you to share your stories of playing outside – from Cliff College to Stoney Cliff Bottom, from Calver Peak to Curbar Gap. We are going to make a permanent historical record of our experiences playing out.

Where do you go when you are Playing Out? What do you do? Ask your parents where they went to play! Ask your grandparents, even great-grandparents! See how things have changed. See what’s still the same!

If you are new to our area, what have you discovered? Where are your favourite places to play? Go out and explore, whatever the weather!

Now the writing begins….

You can write either a SHORT STORY a POEM or a piece of INFORMATIVE WRITING about Playing Out. It must be set in our area. It must include or describe PLAYING OUTSIDE.

You could write an imaginative story including magic, ghosts or something wild and wacky. It could be a true-life story or a historical story inspired by hearing how older people around you played years ago. You can write in any style, as long as your writing is inspired by Playing Out.

You have an upper limit of 500 words, but you can write less than this! Your entry for inclusion in a published book volume must be word-processed in a **Word document in a regular font, size 12**.

This year you can also submit your original handwritten work with any original artwork for this project. This will be included in a special handmade book, along with work from the grown-ups and older children who are also taking part. This special book will be put on public display. It will be a record for local people to treasure, telling everyone our stories of Playing Out.

Helping your child:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DO | DON’T |
| Check they have the correct font and size set up and supervise them typing | Type their entry for them |
| Ask them if they can think of any other describing words they could use | Tell them which words to use |
| Tell them to check where they think punctuation should be – read it back to you and you read it aloud to them | Insert punctuation where you think it should be |
| Ask ‘what might happen next?’ when they are developing their story | Tell them what you think should happen next in their story |
| Remind them about paragraphs, capital letters for names and titles and how to set out speech. | Put their work into paragraphs, add capital letters for names and titles or format their written speech |
| Encourage them to experiment with their own ideas as much as possible | Write their entry for them. You can write YOUR OWN entry yourself this time - I really want you to! |

**PLAYING OUT IN THE COMMUNITY**

You can also come along (please come along!) to the workshops which are taking place **at The Moon Inn, Stoney Middleton on Monday evenings 6-7pm – children welcome – and Tuesday mornings 11am-12pm for anyone who is home during the daytime, starting on 24th April and running throughout May.**

The workshops will involve storytelling, how to get inspired to write, stories and memoirs, poetry, scriptwriting, structuring and editing, how to create books, illustrating your writing and how to bring writing to life in performance.

Playing Out

**SUBMISSION FORM**

By completing this submission form you are giving your consent for your child’s word-processed submission to be published in a volume which will be available for sale through school.

You can also choose to submit your child's original handwritten version and any accompanying artwork which will be collected into a unique record along with the work of adult participants. This will be displayed for public viewing as part of the wider Playing Out project and the work will be unreturnable. You do not have to submit original handwritten work or artwork if you do not wish, simply submit your word-processed version only for inclusion in the published book.

All young writers submitting work within the guidelines set will receive a commemorative pencil and have their work published.

**Closing date for submissions: FRIDAY 28th APRIL 2017**

**CHILD'S NAME (block capitals)**

**............................................................................................................................................................**

**CLASS ………………………… AGE on 28th April 2017 ..................................................................**

**SUBMISSION TITLE:**

**............................................................................................................................................................**

I confirm this submission is the work of the above named child and he/she\* should be identified as the author. \*delate as appropriate

**PARENT/CARER SIGNATURE..........................................................................................................**

**PRINT NAME......................................................................................................................................**

**DATE...................................................................................................................................................**