

Sharing our Stories project

Through the 2021 Autumn Term, a group of Year 6's have been working with theatre practitioner, Hannah Wood, to put together a short Zoom performance for Parkfield House Nursing Home. The funding for the project was secured by Parkfield House Nursing Home from The National Lottery Local Connections Fund, specifically aimed towards linking residents at Parkfield with pupils at Glebe.

The aims of the project were:

- to increase opportunities for older people to work with their local community, including school children, particularly in a digital capacity
- to work with artists to explore experiences and ideas through creativity, which will add to a feeling of purpose and achievement
- bring joy and comfort to older residents, whilst increasing empathy and pride in younger people
- to build meaningful exchanges between young and older people to lift spirits and build cross-generational relationships within our local community

The project saw residents at Parkfield Housing Nursing Home do weekly poetry and spoken word sessions with a professional poet, Daisy, and Year 6 pupils take part in weekly drama workshops with Hannah. To celebrate the end of the project, we linked up with residents at Parkfield House via Zoom. In the Zoom session, the Year 6s led a physical and vocal warm up for Parkfield residents, played a drama game and then read and performed some of the residents' poems back to them.



Here are some of the residents' poems we enjoyed:

Connections

By Rose

Have a motive in life, mine was to fill up my family
In all ways
Not just their belly's
To create a cheerful life for them

Human connection is vital for feeling happy

Have things to look forward to, map your life
Make something of yourself but don't forget where you came from
Be grateful, showing gratitude brings overwhelming happiness

Human connection is vital for feeling happy

Make each other laugh, building each other up when we break down
Be daft as a brush to cheer each other up
I'm mad, she's mad, we're all mad here
You've got to be with each other

Human connection is vital for feeling happy



See the Wonder of It

By Edith

I've always loved & created poetry
I always associated some of the words I write with my god
Some people always think you're a bit funny when you talk about things you love
There was a little girl who used to make up stories about rabbits and little mice
I thought it was funny but not so strange

When I went to school we were taught about very famous poets

We were asked to learn and repeat them
I used to be able to picture the images to remember them
I used to sing a lot in the choir
When I sit here all alone
I go back in time
To when I was a child and sing these songs
We were poor then

Do you imagine all these things like me?
I always had a wonderful night on a white horse who'd come to get me
When you grow up in a world of darkness
Children see the light and butterflies and bright clouds
Imagination is the only way to keep your mind working
To keep your head up
I did not see a butterfly around here
Many times, in my life I've had to see butterflies that aren't really there
Don't ever lose that feeling of wonderment



The Year 6s thoroughly enjoyed the project and expressed that they've "gotten to know new people in different classes and spend time with people we don't usually play with". Parkfield residents said "it was lovely to see the children online after a long time in lockdown. To hear their voices and see their smiles really made us smile and I hope we can see them again."