



Elaine Phillips
Key Stage 2 Manager and Teacher of Year 5
01691 626511
Email: elaine.phillips@ellesmere.com

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Dear Parent,

English Speaking Board Exam

On Wednesday 21st June 2023, Year 6 pupils will have their ESB exam. Not only does the ESB process teach a hugely important life skill but it also boosts confidence and self-esteem.

For those of you who are not familiar with the process, here are the exam requirements:

Section 1: Presenting a Topic of Choice

Research, prepare and present a 4-minute talk on a topic of personal interest. Illustrate this talk with appropriate visual aids, materials and/or demonstration. Brief notes or cue cards can be used to provide prompts but reading from a script is NOT permitted.

Section 2: Speaking by Heart

Present a memorised piece of poetry of own choice. Introduce the piece and explain why you chose it.

Section 3: Reading Aloud

*Bring a book suitable for own reading ability and from which you have prepared *12-15 pages for reading aloud. The assessor will select an extract from these pages for you to read. Introduce the book and explain what it is about and why you chose it.*

* Please note that the prepared requirement is less stringent for documented dyslexic children. Marks are awarded for fluency, appropriate pace and expression.

Over the Easter period, it would be a good idea to set aside some time to prepare for Section 2. When you select the poem, you need to consider the following, which is taken from guidance issued by the English Spoken Board.

- ***The piece has to be substantial and meaningful***
- ***You will have to introduce the poem and give persuasive reasons why you have chosen it***
- ***The poem will have to be committed to memory so if you think you may struggle, choose a poem with a clear pattern/structure and rhyme as this can help***
- ***The poem must be at least 15 lines long***

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

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Over the holidays, just concentrate on learning the poem. Don't worry too much on the delivery at present; we can work on that once the poem has been committed to memory.

There are some suggestions on the KS2 landing page on Frog. Alternatively, please find below some suggested poems but it is fine to choose similar ones too!

The Tummy Beast by Roald Dahl
Game of Soccer by Kristen-Chantelle Woo
The Tyger by William Blake
Look At All Those Monkeys! By Spike Milligan
The Pig by Roald Dahl
My Mouse is Misbehaving by Kenn Nesbitt
The Ghost Teacher by Tony Bradman

Above all, choose a poem you like as you will be reciting it many times between now and your exam in June!

Yours sincerely,