

Welcome to our assembly – we have two special visitors – Karen and Laurie from the North London Hospice.

We want to share with you the important work the School Council were doing last term and please look at our new display in the corridor outside the hall.

We will tell you how the project started and how we did it!
The idea came out of School Council meeting last summer about -

How can Highfield children help our community? - powerpoint slide

Last summer Ryan, who was then a Year 3 School Councillor answered this question by suggesting that we go and work with the NLH which is on Barrowell Green, just around the corner. A great idea Ryan – thank you. You started our journey from then to now.

Last June and July the Year 6 Councillors who are now at secondary school visited the Hospice and came up with the idea of doing something around the topic

Remembering through words and images - slide

This would involve us in Years 5 and 6 working with patients at the Hospice on talking about their lives, their favourite places and other things – and when Cheryl our resident poet came – we decided we their words and our words into poetry. Karen from the Hospice is an artist, so we also decided to make a piece of art using the words of the patients. So here was our topic!

The first day of our work together started back in November 2014 Karen and Laurie came to Highfield to talk to the school council about the North London Hospice. They explained what a hospice does. Their work is really important.

The Hospice is a charity caring for people with life-limiting illnesses, their families and their friends. There are doctors, nurses,

physiotherapists – and at the hospice there is an art room and patients can even have their hair done and have reflexology!

On five Tuesdays, during the last weeks of 2014, Ahsen, Christina, Ferdows, Joseph, Kushi, Lina and Sebastian, together with Ms McGovern and Cheryl, went over to the North London Hospice to meet other staff and patients and work on some art and poetry with them...

The patients thought about words to describe the North London Hospice and about what it offered and provided them. Here are the words we came up with.

suntrap, happiness, care, calming oasis, welcoming,
comforting blanket, welcome, roof garden, sharing,
reassurance, bright and lovely, lovely in the summer,
belonging, togetherness, helpful, support, warmth,
friendship, pain relief, nature, friendly, quiet garden,
palliative, friendly, to relax, relaxation, unique, delicious,
companionship, working together, colourful...

friendship is all we need to help warm up our hearts

friendly, welcome, unique,
helpful companionship,
deliciously helpful

friendship is all we need to be happy

These words were then made into a cinquain. Many of you know what a "cinquain" is as you have been writing them last term with Cheryl – a poem with 5 lines, with a pattern of 2, 4, 6, 8, 2. Here is our 'Hospice Poem'

**Hospice
Warm and lovely
Helpful companionship
Sunbeams shine with joyful laughter
Happy**

Individual children were “buddied” up with one or two patients; they talked together, found out about their lives and memories. They then wrote cinquains about them. Here they are:

Rod’s cinquain (about Dovedale)

Dovedale
Valleys and hills
Walking in the beauty
Happiness is all around me
Dovedale

Mark’s cinquain (about a photograph of building a sandcastle)

Photo
Family and friends
Higgledy, piggledy
Big majestic castle of sand
Picture

Toni’s cinquain (about a small black doll made of Bakelite that her parents gave her)

Topsy
Sweet little mouth
Loved birthday gift
Makes me smile with good memories
My doll

Terry’s cinquains (about his wife Shirley: he always wears her watch – she died some years ago)

Shirl’s watch
Gold, clear and slim
Went far, never mislaid
You’d better take this home with you...
Heartbeat

Shirley
My pretty girl
gentle, tender, caring
You could have been the Queen's double
Duchess

Roy's cinquain (about his boxing career – he won an amateur
championship)

Boxing
Thousands watching
The battle commences
3rd round win, victory is sweet
Wembley

Nilam's cinquain (about her ipad)

Ipad
Lots of fab apps
One touch to chat with friends
Waiting to see smiling faces
Happy

George's cinquain (about Terry)

Terry
His smiling face
Saw war planes in the sky
Magical moments kept safe in
Towers

Art was an important part of the work – and thanks to Karen who helped us with this. We looked at the words in the poems we have written with our patients and we made this landscape artwork. Here is our poem about their favourite remembered places. Look at the artwork over the next week we will leave it up on a display board.

Our Utopia of Remembered Places

The view of London beneath your feet
Chilly, but refreshing.
Memories in the garden, remembering...
a trip to Uganda, home in Tunisia, a holiday on Holcombe Beach
in North Norfolk, being at the park...
*Do you know, I counted 500 planes on D-Day -
seeing the eagles flying through the sky was magical*
...Feel the sand between your toes,
warm and nice and soft
See the azure sea, the azure sky,
smell the ozone
at the top of a monument on Fish Hill.
Purple beds
feeling relaxed and happy
The livingroom is the heart of the home
Relaxed and comfortable.
Freedom,
the experience of a lifetime
somewhere to
belong.

Do you know what “Utopia” means – its an imagined place where everything is perfect and full of precious memories.

At school we made and decorated boxes. Thanks to Mrs Lynch who helped us. We found images about our patients’ remembered places and made these. We gave these to the patients on the last day so that they can put photos and the poems in the boxes to share with their friends and families – and remember us!

What did we all learn? Slide

We made friends and we all learnt new things from each other. We learnt about their lives and we think the patients learnt that even

Whole School Assembly Presentation by the School Council on
Tuesday 13 January 2015

though we are younger, we can all talk together - whatever age we are and whether we are ill or not.

Nimal said: she had never realized that “a few words can be made into a poem”. Terance said it was “an eye opener to meet, talk and be listened to by children”.

Ahsen summed it all up saying “This is not a sad place, but actually it is the opposite: it is the happiest place ever”.

Thanks to the Hospice – Karen, Anneli and Laurie - and to Mrs Kemal, Cheryl, Mrs Lynch and Ms McGovern for giving us this great opportunity. slide