Hello all,

The Woodland Trust has a Tree of the Year award, and each year a few trees from each of the four UK countries are nominated (thanks to Kirsti for letting us know about this). One from each country is then put forward for the European Tree of the Year award. This year, the Dragon Tree in Brighstone is one of the nominations for England and has made the shortlist!!!! (You can visit The Woodland Trust website to vote for it - deadline 27th September.)

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/vote-tree-of-the-year-2019/>

On Thursday 3rd October we will be celebrating National Poetry Day. To link these two events, on the day we will be writing poems about the Dragon Tree - it will be called Poetree Day. The school will be split into their hive teams, and parents will be invited in (until playtime) to work with their children on creating poems about the tree. They can be any type of poems depending on the age or ability of the children; e.g. narrative poems about the legend/myth behind its name, shape poems (this tree is a very interesting and intriguing shape), descriptive poems, acrostic poems, Haikus etc... The aim is to create a book of their poems that will be displayed in school and in Brighstone library. You may also want to use the rest of the day itself to create artwork of the Dragon Tree - these can also go in the book.

To inspire the children, please can you take your classes to visit the Dragon Tree at some point in the next couple of weeks? (A letter will be sent home informing the parents of the walk and the day itself, and the walk will be covered by their orange form.) When you visit the tree, take photos and generate words and phrases to describe the tree. Talk about its shape, texture, legend/myth, colour, etc... Encourage the children to use a range of descriptive vocabulary, including metaphors and similes (age appropriate!).

I will find a range of poems about trees that can be shared with the children over the next few weeks, as well as in Collective Worship on the morning of Poetree Day, to which parents will be invited.

This is a great opportunity for children to develop vocabulary, become poets and be inspired by our local area, as well as being proud of our Dragon Tree!

If you have any questions or further suggestions, please 'reply to all'.

Many thanks,

Mrs. Lennon