

# That's How We Feel Young Again!



*Poems written by The Park Barn Poets  
and writers from Year 3, Northmead  
Primary School in spring/summer 2022*

**Compiled and Edited by Justin Coe**

## Introduction

It was my enormous pleasure to work with a wonderful group of older people and staff at The Hive (Park Barn Day Centre), in Guildford, and then with the brilliant Year 3 children and teachers at Northmead Primary School, to help facilitate the poetry and letter writing that would help bring the groups from the differing generations closer together.

I ran seven sessions with the older writers at Park Barn and another seven sessions with Northmead's Class 3B, plus additional workshops with two other year 3 classes (3N and 3S) at the school. Every week the Park Barn and the Northmead poets listened to the poems produced by their older or younger counterparts and responded to the work they had heard to develop the creative conversation - and ultimately this collection of work that follows in this PDF booklet.

Towards the very end of the project, eight children from the school were chosen to visit the older people and take part in a special sharing session where games were played, face to face conversations took place, new poems were written and the best work performed and celebrated. Amongst our work, another poem was shared, a poem titled "Happiness" that was written by ninety-one year old participant Sonia when she was ten years old and a war-time evacuee.

This project was delivered between May and July 2022, just over two years on from the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown which had made intergenerational contact (and all types of interpersonal communication) extremely challenging. Just like Sonia's teachers in a time of war, we decided to try to raise spirits by focussing on the themes of hope and positivity, while giving some space for us all to reflect on the difficult times we had endured.

What follows are just some of the fabulous poems and letters that were written by groups and individuals that participated with such great generosity, positivity and joy. I hope you enjoy them as much as I enjoyed being part of this project.

**Justin Coe**  
**Poet/Project Facilitator**

## **Acknowledgements**

Most of the work included has been written collectively within the groups credited. Some individual works have also been selected and credited where I could find a name attached to the work. There was not space for all of the brilliant individual poems written by the young people, but I have selected a few at random, so as to reflect and record the diversity of what was produced overall.

This project would not have been possible without financial support from Guildford Borough Council and the administrative skills of Briony Impett and her predecessor Willow Cobby of Guildford's Wellbeing Team.

I must thank Alison Rice, Fiona, Amanda and all the staff at The Hive for their enthusiastic support of the project (and participation in it!) throughout. Enormous thanks are due to Wendy Cook for coordinating my involvement within the school (and for providing me with transport in between venues!) and to all the fantastic year 3 teachers, especially Jo Backhurst who brilliantly enabled and built on my weekly work with her class, 3B, every week throughout the project.

**The biggest thanks of all, of course, goes to the young participants of Northmead Primary and the not quite so young participants of The Hive, who included - Sonia, Sandy, Sue, Catriona, Keith, Linda, Jean, two Joans, two Colins, Mary, Valerie, Audrey, Malcolm, Wolfie and Betty.**

**Justin**

# **Section 1**

## **POETRY PARTY!**

## **Poetry Party**

*(after Zoroaster Weil)*

When the jelly is together with its wobbly belly, it is one

When the christmas cake is together with its holy, it's one

When the cracker is together with its bang, it's one

When the present is together with its wrapping, it's one

When the chocolate biscuit is together with the cream , it's one

When the orange is together with the water, it's one

When the magic is together with its sparkle, it's one

When the moon is together with the disco, it's one

When the champagne is together with its bubbles, it's one

When the older poets are together with the young, we are one!

***Written by the older and younger writers together***

## **The People from the Barn**

They've got guile, they've got grace  
They've got style, they're truly ace  
They put a smile upon my face

**The people from the barn**

Justin likes to sing a tune  
Alison likes to look at the moon  
Catronia eats with a spoon\*

**The people from the Barn**

Linda sees lots of bees  
Keith splashes in the sea  
Wolfie loves to climb a tree

**The people from the Barn**

Valerie loves to ride on a train  
Sonia likes to go up on a plane  
Mary enjoys a holiday to Spain

**The people from the Barn**

Joan lives at the end of the street  
Audrey likes a travelling treat  
Colin loves a cake - so sweet

**The people from the Barn**

I like to spend my time with them  
With all the women and the men  
So, let's hear it once again

**For the people from the Barn**

*\*especially Turkish Delight!*

***The Park Barn Poets***

## Poetry Is

Lots of words that rhyme  
Or maybe a few words that don't

Poetry is

Like a song  
Catchy words that get caught in your head  
Like "She sells seashells on the seashore"

Poetry can talk about cake, teachers and toilets  
Poetry can talk about more than cake, teachers and toilets

Poetry can be part of your family

Poetry can express how you feel

And you can write poetry really fast  
Or you write poetry r-e-a-l-l-y v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y

**Class 3N**

## **Poetry is as Surprising as...**

### **Poetry is as surprising as...**

Eating sweets in the classroom  
Saying hello to a husky in the Himalayas  
And reading a book in the swimming pool

### **Poetry is as surprising as...**

Watching my hamster with a peanut  
A dragon on the toilet browsing a newspaper  
Or going downstairs to a dinosaur

### **Poetry is as surprising as...**

Living up in the clouds  
Owning a pet Floppa  
And a fish with legs

### **Poetry is as surprising as...**

A rabbit leaping from building  
to building  
Like Spiderman



## **Fruit Bowl Poem**

I am not a tomato  
I am a clown's nose

I am not a bunch of grapes  
I am a dangly earring

I am not an apple  
I am a hard red balloon

I am not a carrot  
I am an orange rolling pin

I am not an ordinary blueberry  
I am an Audreyberry

I am not a nectarine  
I am a juicy golf ball

I am not a strawberry  
I am an ice cream topper

I am not a cherry  
I am a tiny cherry tree

I am not a plum  
I am the plump belly of a vicar

I am not an orange  
I am a cricket ball  
And I am going to bowl you out

I am not a squashy banana  
I am a yellow scarf to warm your neck

And we are not fruits from the fruit bowl  
We are people  
And we are poets!

***Park Barn Poets***

## **Section 2**

**HOPE IS A MORNING SNOOZE**

## **Hope is a Land of Glory (and a Morning Snooze)**

Hope is a land of glory  
Hope is more than a morning  
Hope is a feather on the patio

*And hope is a morning snoooooooze  
Hope is a morning snoooooooze  
Hope is a morning snoooooooze  
To brighten up the day*

Hope is in the hands of my carers  
Hope is bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover  
Hope is a conversation with my parrot (“who’s a pretty boy then?” )

*And hope is a morning snoooooooze  
Hope is a morning snoooooooze  
Hope is a morning snoooooooze  
To brighten up the day*

Hope is choosing pretty colours  
Hope is being rescued by a policeman  
Hope is always smiling like  
Elsie and Michael Wicks!

*Hope is a land of glory!  
And hope is a morning snoooooooze  
Hope is a morning snoooooooze  
Hope is a morning snoooooooze  
To brighten up the day*

**Park Barn Poets**

## **Our Wishes**

*(Collated from the notes made by 3B)*

### ***We wish we wish we wish***

**If we had all the wishes in the world**

**We'd wish for**

Wings to fly

A waterproof book

A three hour break

Friends who invite us to all their playdates (but never our brothers)

A sonic boom army plus

And a pet elephant

### ***We wish we wish we wish***

**If we had all the wishes in the world**

**We'd wish**

To go diving in the sky

To live in the clouds and be happy forever

To climb to the top of a tree and jump off but not get hurt

And for the Nintendo to work in the toilet

### ***We wish we wish we wish***

**If we had all the wishes in the world**

**We'd wish**

For a microscope and a trampoline

For a bottle of sweets and a billion pounds

For a baby sister

For a pet Floppa

For our stolen dog to come back home

For a solution to pollution

And for Superman to be replaced by a chicken

***We wish we wish we wish***

**If we had all the wishes in the world**

**We'd wish**

To have enough money for 200 bunnies

To turn a pet cat into a teddy

To work in a candy shop

To put a stop to Covid

And to never row with our Mums

**3B**

## **If We Could See Hope**

If we could see hope  
It would be as colourful as a rainbow  
It would be like a football player holding up a diamond trophy  
Or like poppies on a roundabout  
Blowing in a breeze

If we could hear hope  
We would hear  
The birds tweeting  
The cats purring  
And the morning rooster roaring  
Cock-a-doodle doo!

If we could smell hope  
It would smell like  
All the flowers in the fields  
All the sweets in the candy shop  
And all the forever fresh-air future

If we could touch hope  
It would sometimes be as soft and squishy as a marshmallow  
Sometimes as smooth as paper  
And sometimes as bumpy as rock

If we could taste hope  
It would taste like an orchid  
Of juicy apples, peaches, and KFC!

And if hope could talk  
It would say

Hello, I am hope  
I wish you beauty

## **If Hope Could Talk It Would Say...**

I am hope

I wish you the best

I wish you beauty

I wish you confidence

I wish you to never give up

I am hope

I wish you luck

I wish you happiness

I wish you to get married

And I wish you a merry Christmas



## Hope is...

*(created from a game of consequences)*

Hope is something with a tail that plays with toys  
Hope is something you can play with on a consol  
Hope is something that has pages  
Hope is something I got when I was born

Hope is something that you get taught by  
Hope is something that you can dance with on your feet  
Hope is something you eat  
Hope sleeps all day and is up all night

Hope is something you can colour and sketch in  
Hope is something that purrs  
Hope is something that's fluffy or scaly  
Hope is something that can be small or big

Hope is something with big bunches that you can dress up  
Hope is something I put on my feet to run  
Hope is something that has food inside  
Hope is something that you are good at

Hope has a spine, pages and a cover  
Hope is made of paper and tells stories  
Hope is round and you can kick it  
Hope is something that is not alive

Hope is something that is fluffy and cute  
Hope is something you can cuddle  
Hope is something you can play on fortnite  
Hope is when I cross my fingers

## **And No More Wars**

*(Wishes for the children of Northmead Primary School)*

### **We wish you**

A ticket to Tottenham

A dark green Maserati racing car

A cycle ride to Fresh Water Beach

**And no more wars**

### **We wish you**

A sail under the seas in a submarine

A dolly-in-a-box

A green badminton racquet (and all the boys in the badminton club!)

**And no more wars**

### **We wish you**

Red roses and shiny leafed camelias

A sit-on-your-shoulder African Grey Parrot

A little red racer (not too rusty)

**And no more wars**

### **We wish you**

Moky, a wonderful wooden horse on wheels

Two tennis balls to bounce against the wall while singing a rhyme

And free cake for everyone

**AND NO MORE WARS!**

*Park Barn Poets*

## **Section 3**

# **THE JOY SHOP**

## **The Joy Shop**

We went to the Joy Shop  
And Linda bought a puppy dog  
And Keith bought silver roller-skates  
And Wolfie bought a one-eyed torn-bellied bear called Bimbo  
And Colin bought Mokey, a donkey on wheels  
And Amanda bought the dolls house her dad built  
And Sonia bought a doll with clicky-eyes  
And Valerie bought a big parcel and a birthday card  
And Joan bought Sandy, the ginger cat that lives forever  
And Jean bought a black and white cat  
And Mary all the dogs and cats that run about everywhere  
And Justin bought a pretty poem - this poem  
About the puppy dog, the silver roller-skates, the one-eyed torn-bellied  
bear called Bimbo, Mokey the donkey on wheels, the dolls house built by  
Amanda's dad, the doll with the clicky-eyes, the big parcel and the  
birthday card, Sandy the ginger cat that lives forever, the black and white  
cat and all the dogs and cats that run about everywhere.

***Park Barn Poets***

## **Joy is**

Joy is brightly coloured  
Joy goes round and round  
Joy is green and lives in the garden by the pond

Joy is sometimes black and white  
And sometimes tortoise-shell or tabby  
And sometimes a ginger-tom that lives forever

Joy is carved from wood  
And sometimes it's nylon strings make the sound of music  
And sometimes it's wings want to fly

Joy sits on a table  
You can tap joy with your fingers

Joy takes me for my walkies  
And joy is naughty and it makes me laugh

***Park Barn Poets***

## **Joy is...**

Joy is a toy with long pointy ears  
Joy is fluffy and soft but loves tug of war  
Joy is what I adore and I get to kick it  
Joy is a shoe with wheels

Joy is beautiful but hard to find underground  
Joy is something I give my Mum every morning to show her I love her  
Joy is a fierce animal  
Joy makes me want to smash my controller

Joy barks and chews bones  
Joy is playful, energetic and cute  
Joy can go 285 miles an hour on the road  
Joy has 890 horsepower

Joy is something you can play with  
Joy is something you can write with  
Joy is something you can colour with  
Joy is something you can cuddle at night when you are scared

Joy has four legs  
Joy has a beak  
Joy has a screen  
Joy helps you to sleep

Joy is something you can snuggle when you are sad  
You can cuddle Joy all night long

## Today

*Written by Frank O'Hara but edited by The Park Barn Poets*

Puppy dogs, silver roller skates and a donkey on wheels  
You really are beautiful  
Dolls with clicky eyes, big parcels and birthday cards  
All the stuff they've always talked about!  
Footballs, staying alive and one-eyed, torn-bellied bears called Bimbo  
You still make a poem a surprise  
Black and white cats, ginger toms that live forever  
and all the cats and dogs running everywhere  
These things are with us everyday  
Even on beachheads or briers  
They do have meaning  
They're as strong as rocks

## **Sunshine Reminds Me**

Sunshine reminds **Colin** of warm weather

Warm weather reminds **Sonia** of the beach

The beach reminds **Amanda** of fish'n'chips

Fish'n'chips reminds **Wolfie** of the cold sea

The cold sea reminds **Colin** of the fish that live in the sea

All the fish that live in the sea remind **Mary** of swimming

Swimming reminds **Valerie** of the Queens Hotel in Blackpool

The Queens Hotel in Blackpool reminds **Joan** she needs to see the  
scenery in Blackpool

The scenery of Blackpool reminds **Keith** of the illuminations

The illuminations remind **Linda** of the Blackpool Tower

The Blackpool Tower reminds **Justin** of the illuminations, the scenery,  
the Queens Hotel in Blackpool, swimming, all the fish that live in the sea,  
fish'n'chips, the beach, the warm weather and SUNSHINE!



## **Section 4**

# **LETTERS, CARDS AND RIDDLES**

## **Postcards from the Past**

*Written by individual Park Barn Poets*

**Dear Northmead**

*I wish you were here.*

*Here in my garden.*

*There's blackbirds nesting in the rosebush.*

**Sonia**

**Dear Northmead**

*I wish you were here*

*Headcorn, Kent. The aircraft arrives but I soon realise it isn't just excitement I'm feeling, it's trepidation. But I am raising money for disabled children so I have to jump!*

*I am the last of the 12 parachutists. I clamber into the doorway, legs akimbo. I look back to the instructor and wait for my turn to go. The wind is rushing past so fast.*

**Colin**

**Dear Northmead**

*I wish you were here. In the Ford Estate Car driving back from Yeovil.*

*The first time I met Jojo, my new parrot.*

*She wasn't very friendly at first. She bit me!*

*But I think one day she will bow her head when I stroke her and be a really great pet.*

**Wolfie**

**Dear Northmead**

*I wish you were here.*

*At Sleaford High School.*

*You can sleep here. And I can teach you how to dress nicely and speak properly!*

**Joan**

**Dear Northmead**

*I wish you were here.*

*In my mother's house. Susie the bouncy puppy jumps up on my lap for the first time!*

*We are all amazed.*

**Mary**

**Dear Northmead**

*I wish you were here.*

*At Butlins in Bognor Regis for the first time with the family.*

*Everybody enjoys the red coats!*

**Colin**

**Dear Northmead**

I wish you were here.

*Southampton. A trip with Northmead School. To the Queen Mary.*

*It's exciting and frightening. The sea is choppy!*

**Keith**

**Dear Northmead**

*I wish you were here.*

*Seeing Roger, my brother, play five-a-side.*

*To think he used to have Polio and they said he would never walk.*

*And now I think he could play for Chelsea.*

*He scored a goal and I was so proud!*

**Linda**

**Dear Northmead**

*I wish you were here.*

*At Oxford University with my Uncle Fred (who serves in the Royal Airforce), Grandad Bridger and Uncle John and the whole family.*

**Valerie**

*PS - I pressed the button to drop the bomb that helped us win the war!*

## Riddles

1.

Someone tall  
Someone beautiful  
Someone who is always there  
Someone who gives great cuddles  
Someone who helps me

I'll always love this chum  
She's my...

2.

Who runs around naked and has curly hair and makes hair dryer noises?  
Also related to my mother  
It's my...

3.

I am long and hard  
I don't break into shards  
I'm a bit bigger than a 15cm ruler  
I rhyme with stencil  
I am a...

4.

Something gigantic and tall  
Something that scraps the sky  
Something that is shiny  
What am I?

**5.**

What is super soft  
And as snuggly as a blanket  
And is always in my beddy?

It is my...

**6.**

You can play on it  
But you can't sit on it  
You can watch movies on it  
It's as big as an omelette  
But you can't eat it  
And it can get you ANGRY!

**7.**

I am bigger than a mouse but smaller than a house  
I am as fluffy as a slipper and I eat soggy food  
I rest in the daytime and I sometimes go wild....

**8.**

I am bigger than an ant  
I never pant  
I have a button nose  
I have soft toes  
Day and night I sleep  
There's nothing I can eat  
I'm a....

**3B (Answers on the last page!)**

## **Dear...**

### **Dear Jean**

Have you ever painted 200 bunnies from the colours of the rainbow?  
Did you ever enjoy school and get better at reading and at poems?  
Would you like to be young and run through the fields until you get to France?

### **Dear Colin No.1**

Did you ever spray water guns at your friends on a summer's day?  
Did you ever get a pet rabbit and feed it carrots and stroke its soft ears all the time?  
Did you ever swing on a swing? Because I did.      **(Liyana)**

### **Dear Sonia**

Did you love holding hamsters and did you take a photo while she was eating a peanut?  
Did you celebrate your first birthday with huge pink balloons and a Peppa Pig cake?  
Did you have any hamsters when you were six years old and did you have a bouncy castle and lots of presents?      **(Gia)**

### **Dear Audrey**

Did you ever like stroking chickens?  
Did you ever get a pet chicken that eats ice cream?  
Did you ever want to be a child again and skip through the fields? **(Yasamin)**

### **Dear Sandy**

Did you ever like making cards for people to wish them Happy Birthday?  
Did you ever have a baby brother that woke you up at 2am in the morning crying?  
Were you born in August when the stars were twinkling? **(Edith)**



**Dear Wolfie and Jojo**

Did you like holding bunnies and feeding them chicken nuggets?

Did you like climbing trees like a monkey?

Did you ever have a true best friend in your life that makes you laugh so much you laugh your socks off?

Do you want to be a child again and do water balloon fights? **(Eva)**

**Dear Linda**

Did you like playing with Lego when you were young? Did you ever build a Millenium Falcon?

Did you ever meet any friends in the toilet?

Did you have 10,000 cats that could make a huge bridge all the way to France? **(Lucus)**

**Dear Joan**

Did you play football and break your sister's ankle?

Did you ever feed your pet rubber an ant?

Have you been scouted before because you run like a bolt of light?

Were you born in a hospital? **(Sibby)**

**Dear Sonia**

Did you ever have Nerf Guns as a kid and if so did you like shooting your Dad with one?

Was Legoland a thing when you were a kid? If so, did you go there on your birthday?

Did you have good toys or bad toys? I have good toys **(Noah)**

*(Selected questions by individual writers from 3B)*

## **Dear 3B**

*(Park Barn Poets Answer 3B's Questions and Pose Some Questions of Their Own)*

**Dear 3B,**

No, I never sprayed water-guns at my friends on a summer's day.  
But has your Dad ever told you he'd turn your pet rabbit into your Sunday dinner?

Yes, I enjoy splashing water in my face. But only on a hot day!

Yes, I enjoyed school and got better at reading and writing poems.  
And have you ever written a poem about love in the war that was published in the school magazine?

No, I never had hamsters or a bouncy castle for my birthday.  
But have you ever stroked a brown and white guinea pig with enormous whiskers?

Yes, I did have cats. Have you ever had 14 cats at once who all eat chicken everyday?

No, I didn't have 1,000 cats that could make a bridge over the fields to France!  
But did you ever meet Penela Wopshop in the toilet and talk about boys?!

Yes, I was born in a hospital. And yes, I was born during World War II!  
But no, I've never fed my pet rubber an ant. I just got on with it!

No, I never had NERF guns to shoot my Dad with. When I was young only the boys had guns. But did you ever own a doll with clicky eyes?

Yes, I loved climbing trees. And did you ever build a treehouse in an Oak tree in your garden and then sleep there overnight?

And no, I've never stroked a pet chicken.  
But sometimes I wouldn't mind being a child again.

## **Section 5**

**THAT'S HOW WE FEEL YOUNG  
AGAIN**

## Questions to The Great Grandad Tree

*(Potentially 5,400 years old, it's thought that The "Gran Abuelo" - or Great Grandfather Tree - in the Chilean Andes could be the oldest tree in the world!)*

Do you know how old you are?

How did you live so long?

How many babies do you have?

Have you got any grandchildren?

Do you have cousins?

Brothers? Sisters?

If so, how many?

Do you ever forget things?

Do you keep pet bugs?

Or do you have a pet hamster made out of twigs?

Do you look after all the old Grandad's inside you?

If you do look after the old Grandad's inside you - how old is the average Grandad you look after? Is it a) 50 or b) 52?

How many leaves do you have?

Are you sad when the leaves leave?

Are you dating an Old Grandma tree?

I know you are a tree but do you still have to go to the toilet?

Are you going to live until you are a million years old?

Are you still alive after all these questions?!

**3B**

## **Further Questions To The Great Grandad Tree**

Are you going to apply some moisturiser to your bark?

Are you going to branch out?

Do you know your roots?

Are you hiding nuts for squirrels?

How many new leaves do you have?

And can I climb on you?

***Park Barn Poets***

## **Rules For a Long and Happy Life**

1. Don't bunk off school to climb trees
2. Look after your teacher and avoid detention
3. Work hard on your sums and pass your exams
4. Study and don't bear grudges
5. Find time for the occasional snooze
6. Buy a Ginger Tom cat that lives forever
7. If you ever have to be evacuated - find a friendly family in Exeter
8. Have children (but not lots of them)
9. Have a holiday in Altea, Spain
10. DO WHAT YOUR MUM TELLS YOU TO DO!

***Park Barn Poets***

## **When Am I Old**

### **When I Am Old**

I will wear bright orange socks over my shoes  
I will spend my pension on five sports cars  
I shall eat sweets whenever I want to  
But now I have to be quiet in class (Edith)

### **When I Am Old**

I will wear old jeans and shorts that shows your belly  
But now we have to wear dresses! (Molly H)

### **When I Am Old**

I shall wear nothing but knickers in the winter  
I will spend my pension on 5,000 puppies  
I shall go to school but I won't do maths, only painting  
But now I have to eat all of my peas! (Lilly)

### **When I Am Old**

I shall wear boots on my hands and a hat on my nose  
I will spend my pension on a little house that cost 9,000 pounds  
I shall do a cartwheel  
But now I need to do the rite spellings! (Alisa)

### **When I Am Old**

I shall wear a bright pink handbag with laser disco lights  
I will spend my pension on beer and wine and get drunk  
I will drive a motorbike to space  
But now I have to be quiet and do English (Imogen)

### **When I Am Old**

I will do handstands on the pavements  
I will buy a Hamster 900 which will never die  
I will ride hamsters and ride in a carriage  
But now I have to go in my Dad's smelly car (Gia)

## **When I Am Old**

I shall wear pink coats

And the sleeves will go on my legs

I will spend my pension on LOTS of cans of Sprite

And on F1 racing cars

I will ride a wheelchair down a loooooooooong flight of steps

And crash through the window at the end

But now we have to eat healthy food

And make sure the collar of our shirt is neat (Noah)



## **That's How We Feel Young Again**

**That's how to have fun, my friend  
That's how to feel young again**

Ride a bike across the hills  
Play Darts and Bingo - all the thrills

Play Rock'n'Roll and have a dance  
Be a hippy - give peace a chance

**That's how to have fun, my friend  
That's how to feel young again**

Clap along to Eric Clapton  
Play in the sun on the beach in Clacton

Dance and Romance in a club  
Drink a light ale in the pub

**That's how to have fun, my friend  
That's how to feel young again**

Drive a van really fast  
A day in Devon - what a blast!

Stroke your cat on it's furry head  
And tuck the children into bed

**That's how to have fun, my friend  
That's how to feel young again**

*Park Barn Poets*

## **Section 6**

**HERE'S WHERE**

## **Thank You (from the younger poets)**

Thank you Sonia, Sandy and Sue  
We really enjoyed writing poems to you  
Thank you Catriona, and Keith and Linda  
We had a lot of fun playing games too

Thank you Jean, and Joan, and Jean again  
Sorry about the biscuit crumbs we made on the floor  
Thank you Mary, Valerie and Audrey  
We loved hearing stories about the war

Thank you Malcolm, Cynthia, and Wolfie  
It was fabulous to talk about Jojo your parrot  
Thank you Betty. And Colin 1 and Colin 2  
We loved the lollies - better than carrots!

Thank you Park Barn Poets. Everyone of you  
We really enjoyed writing poems to you

## **Thank You Dad For Blowing Your Trumpet**

Thank you Dad for blowing your trumpet  
Thank you Mr Loveday, my school teacher  
Thank you to the nurse who gave me a cuddle when I was upset  
Thank you to the doctors for helping me with my diabetes  
Thank you to my councillor for listening and for hearing me  
Thank you Exeter for looking after me and my sisters in the war  
Thank you to the Queen for all she does (and for sending Valerie a letter!)  
Thank you my son John, for looking out for Linda  
Thank you Justin for the joy of the poetry  
Thank you birds in the garden  
Thank you everybody for being together  
Thank you to the staff, they are bright shining stars  
Thank you children for sharing your letters and poems with us  
And thank you dogs for not interrupting me while I'm talking

***Park Barn Poets***

## **And Most of All, Thank You Mrs Backhurst**

*(Collated from individual children's poems)*

Thank you X-Box for the entertainment  
Thank you to the doctor for helping my Dad in the hospital  
Thank you to my brother for bashing into my room without knocking

Thank you to my toys - you were great company  
Most unlikely, thank you COVID, for not sending me to school!  
Thank you dad for the Nerf Gun fights and for taking me to football  
Thank you Gran and Grandad for all your support  
And thank you Mum  
(Without whom I would not be born!)  
Thank you for keeping me safe  
And for teaching me my tables  
And for letting me look at my phone to buy teddies on Amazon Prime

Thank you chocolate  
Thank you fishes  
Thank you bicycle  
Thank you park  
Thank you paddling pools  
Thank you ice creams  
Thank you KFC for the chicken nuggets!  
Thank you wind  
(Without you I would die in all the hot outside)

Thank you pencil for doing all of my work  
Thank you pillow for helping me get to sleep every night

Thank you Pebbles, the cat, who visited my garden everyday  
Thank you garden and especially, the magnolia tree  
Thank you roller skates for getting me outside  
And letting me roll down the path next to the road  
At top speed!

Thank you Miss Wakefield  
For letting me come into your class and for teaching me maths

And I'd like to thank you most of all, Mrs Backhurst  
For helping me get better at drawing  
I couldn't draw anything before  
But now I can  
I can draw fish  
I can even draw dragons

**3B**

## **Justin's Thank Yous**

*(improvised at the last session with the Park Barn Poets)*

Thank you Linda for the laughter

Thank you Keith for the kindness

Thank you Wolfy for the wild sense of humour

Thank you Valerie for the valour

Thank you Colin for considerate conversation

Thank you Sonia for the sonnets

Thank you Alison for the awesome inspiration

Thank you Colin for the cleverness

Thank you Audrey for being far from ordinary...

And for looking after my glasses and for correcting my grammar

And also for all the joy - thank you Joan!

*Justin*

## **Here's Where**

*(A Poem for The Hive)*

Here's where  
A carer cuddles you when you're upset

Here's where  
We danced and laughed with the schoolchildren only last week

Here's where  
We keep lovely company

Here's where  
We eat fish and chips and mushy peas on a Friday

Here's where  
We play BINGO and we cheer when we win

Here's where  
We communicate and we celebrate

Here's where  
We share memories and moments

Here's where  
We meet the girls, the boys and the opposites

Here is  
A place of tranquillity, love and life

Here's where  
We thrive  
In the Hive

(And here's where  
Poetry is alive!)

***Park Barn Poets***



## **Riddle Answers**

1. Mum. 2. Brother. 3. Pencil. 4. Skyscraper. 5. Teddy. 6. X-BOX 7. Cat 8. Teddy Bear