



Every year, The Poetry Society commissions a poet to write a new poem as part of the official celebrations welcoming the Christmas tree to London's Trafalgar Square.

This year's poem, 'The Christmas Pine', follows the journey of the tree from a seed in the forests around Oslo, through its journey to Trafalgar Square. The poem is written by best-selling author of *'The Gruffalo'* Julia Donaldson, and will be premiered tonight at **6pm on Thursday 3 December 2020** at the virtual lighting up ceremony of the tree.



As part of this unique programme, The Poetry Society facilitated a day of free writing and performance workshops to our wonderful Year 6 pupils in **Heron** class. Poet Coral Rumble and The Lord Mayor of Westminster both visited our school to encourage the children to write their own poems inspired by 'The Christmas Pine'. The children learned about the history of the Christmas tree tradition, wrote their own poems and were the first secret readers of Julia Donaldson's new poem, which they have had great fun practising to perform. Coral, alongside Miss Wakley, helped to select three pupils (Reinfrancis, Fabio and Poppy-Beau) to debut the poem at the tree's virtual lighting up ceremony and to mark the start of the festive season in the capital.

The children were interviewed by BBC London TV this morning at 11am down by the famous tree. Keep an eye out for the children on the local London news this evening at 6:50pm. Once the ceremony and the poem has been aired, we will post the recorded recital on our school's homepage.

The lighting-up of the tree in 2020 will be an online event for the first time. The Lord Mayor of Westminster invites us to gather round our screens at **6pm on Thursday 3 December**. Now more than ever, it is important to come together – even if that means doing so virtually!

Join the event, and hear the premiere of the poem at:

www.westminster.gov.uk/trafalgar-square-christmas-tree or

Stream via YouTube or Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/798809134299237/>

<https://youtu.be/jLTVSJoV87k>

We are very proud of all our Year 6 pupils for all their hard work and enthusiasm towards this project. They are wonderful ambassadors and showcased our school in the best light possible.

To find out more then please read the article below:

<https://poetrysociety.org.uk/news/look-north-more-often-2020-the-new-trafalgar-square-christmas-poem/>

Kindest regards,
Mrs Hough (Acting Deputy Headteacher)

