

Childhood Restored

'Anything But Covid'

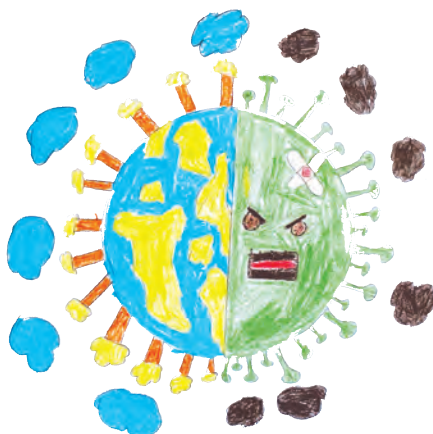
An alphabet of
artwork and poems
by primary school
children in the
North East Inner City







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COVID

Introduction

Childhood Restored is a community arts project that was carried out in seven primary schools in Dublin's North-East Inner City between February and June 2022, as we began to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, back into society and 'normal life'. Generously funded by the NEIC, the project aimed to provide primary-school children with a safe space to express their feelings around the pandemic and the effect it has had on them, through art and creative writing. It also built on the Restorative Practices (RP) work already taking place in the NEIC, to help to reconnect primary school children and their families with each other and re-establish a sense of community.

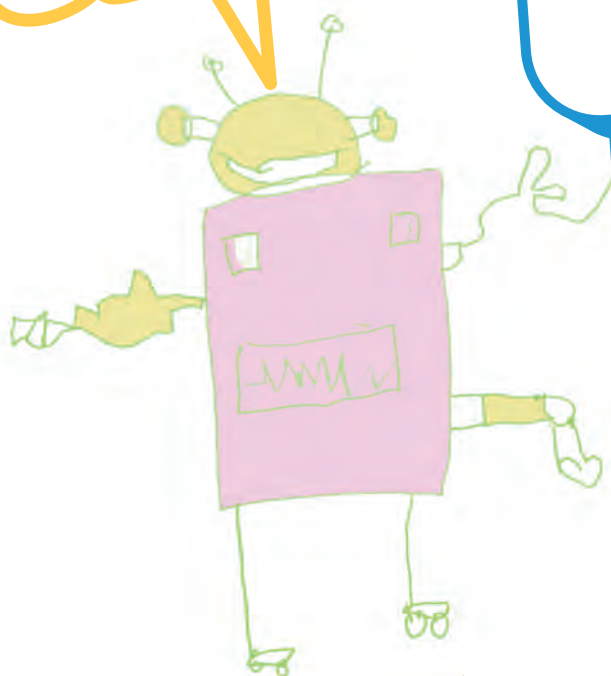
In April and May 2022, 164 Children in six primary schools in the NEIC participated in a series of workshops, led by Artist Stephen Bosonnet and Poet/Writer Catherine Ann Cullen, to create both artwork and poems inspired by their individual and collective experiences during the pandemic. Out of these workshops emerged a collaborative A-Z of words that the children felt reflected their experience of the past two years, entitled 'Anything But Covid'. Children in each class wrote poems and couplets for each letter of the alphabet and created art based on their discussions in the workshops. The resulting artwork and poems are displayed within the pages of this book, creating a historical record of the experiences of children in the NEIC during the pandemic that will live on for years to come..

We hope you enjoy it.

Early Learning Initiative



A



by Scoil Chaoimhín



ABC DEF

GHI JKLM

NOP QRS

TUV WXYZ

by Scoil Chaoimhín

All

All my family got Covid except me,
My Mam, my Dad and my two brothers.

I walked around the house on my own,
Didn't stay in one room like the others.

(Noah)



Anything

I didn't do anything at all.
Just stayed in my room, that's all.

(Hamsa)

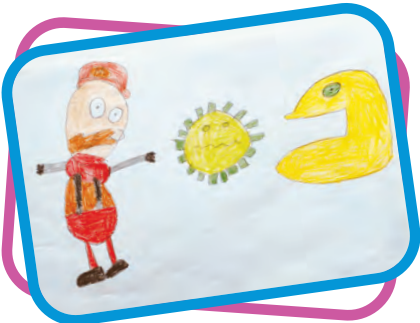


Away

I stayed away from Nana in case I
made her sick.

It made me very sad, but I got
better quick.

(Avril)





ABC DEF

GHI JKLM

NOP QRS

TUV WXYZ

by Scoil Chaoimhín

Bad

It was very bad for all the people
who were homeless outside.

They couldn't get any medicine, and
if they got sick they might die.

(Heidi)



Baile

Níor thaitin an scolaíocht bhaile liomsa

Níos fearr i bhfad an scoil cheart domsa.

(Alysia)



Break

When lockdown was over we had a
lovely break.

Dad, me and my sister had a picnic
on Blessington Lake.

(Zara)





ABC DEF

GHI JKLM

NOP QRS

TUV WXYZ

by Scoil Chaoimhín



Cases

We stayed in our house when there were lots of cases

When it was gone we could go to a few places.

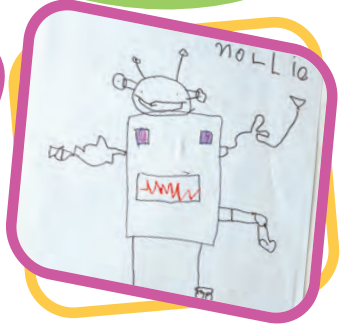
(Finn)

Computer

I was doing my schoolwork at home on my computer

I was happy but I missed my friends and going on my scooter.

(Blake)



COVID

I noticed when Covid spreads to everyone

It's a virus, then it will be gone. (Jacob)



The Covid test went up my nose,

It was tickly but then it said No. (Phoebe)



After the little Covid arrived, the big Covid came.

It was eating little ones. (Luke)



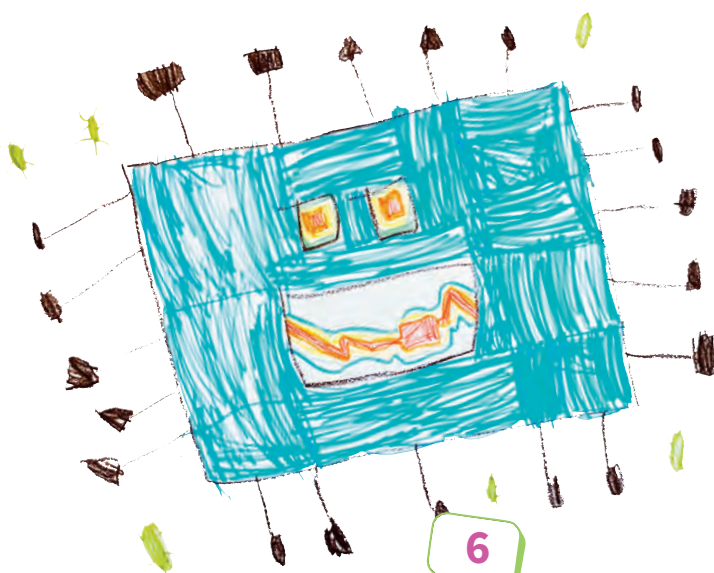
My cousins are twins. One had Covid, the other hadn't any.
The one who didn't have it had to stay with my Nannie. (Remi)

D

E

F

by Central Model



DEF by Central Model



Distance

Distance from all,
Covid will fall.

(Nathan)

Doctors

Doctors are saving us,
Evil virus hurting us. (Zara)
Doctors help stop spreading Covid
Medicine is hard to spell. (Vihaas)

Doctors are nice,
Give good advice. (Maistra)

Doctors help everyone get well,
Heroes help us as well. (Haoen)



Door Handles

Door handles must be clean,
Covid is so mean!

(Ace)





by Central Model



Elbow Bump

Elbow bump with you
Is what we do.

(Emma)

Exercise

Epic kids of every size
Have to exercise

(Tamim)



Excited

Excited to go to school
I miss the swimming pool (Aisha)

Excited to see friends,
Covid will end. (Ana)





ABC DEF

GHI JKLM

NOP QRS

TUV WXYZ

by Central Model

Family

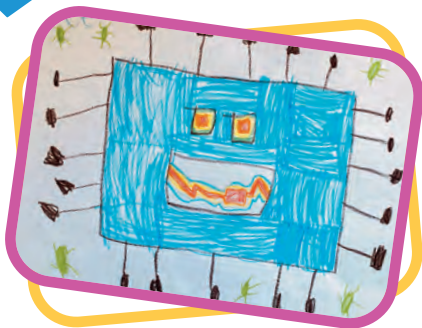
Family help us,
Friends help us. (Vihaas)

My family had no Covid,
They did their best,
When we went to Hungary
We had to test. (Christopher)



Fight

Fight, fight,
Give Corona a fright!
(Celina)

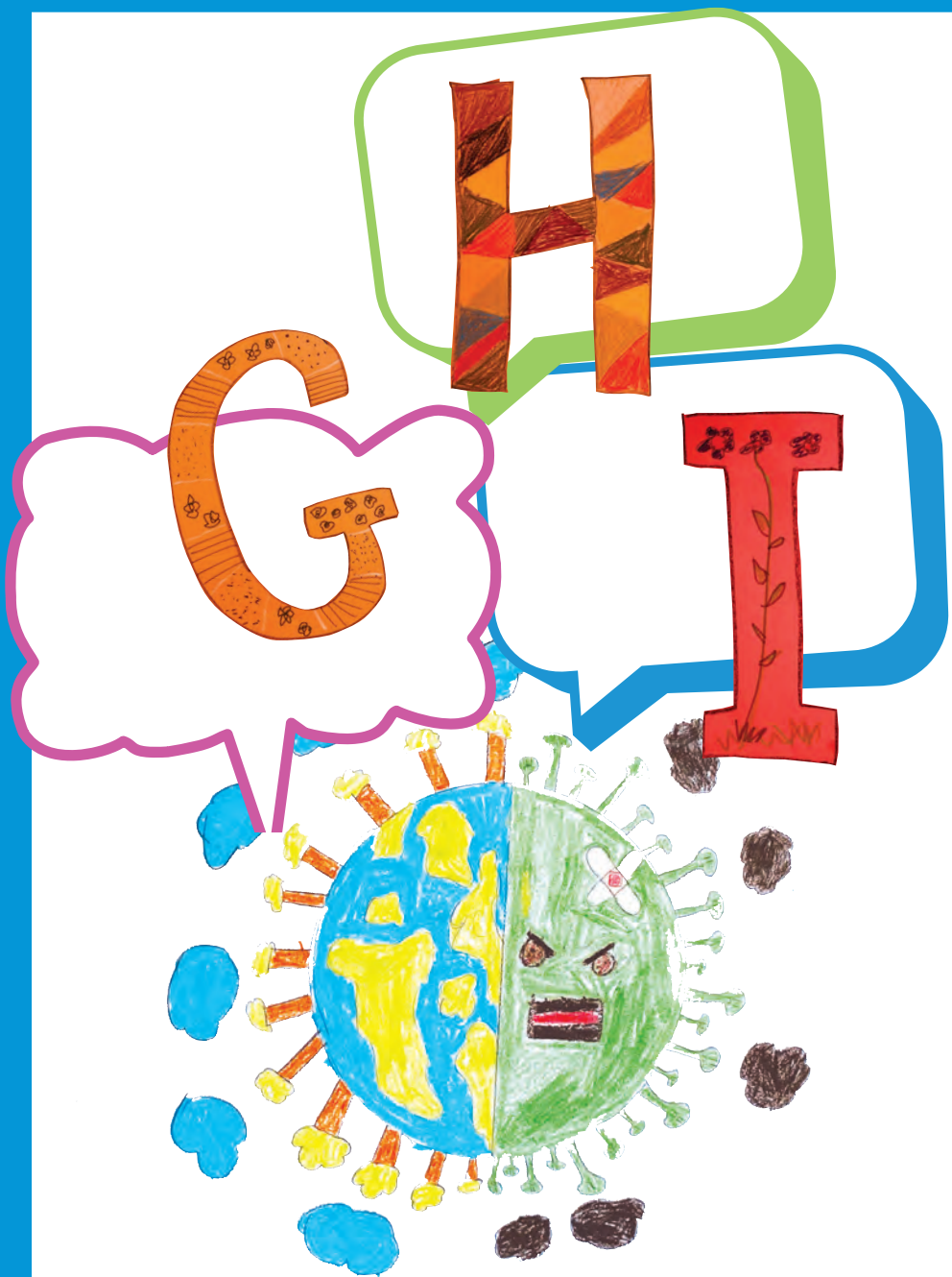


Fist Bump

Fist bumps instead of hugs
Keep away Covid bugs.

(Billie)





by Central Model

Germs

Germs are bad! Wash your hands!
Do everything to save our land! (Alan)

Germs are disgusting

They're not for trusting. (Daisy)

Germs are bad karma

And bad harm-a. (Belle)

Germs are very gross and bad,
Coronavirus makes me sad. (Sabina)

Germs are bad, we will stand,
Try to claim back our land. (Ansus)



Go

Go away Corona!
Leave me alone-a!

(Sharvina)



Grandparents

My grandparents are in Beijing,
Covid was a scary thing.

(Cindy)





Haircuts

Haircut shops are all closed,
Everyone's going crazy on my road!

(Sharvina)

Hand Sanitiser

I always hand sanitise before I eat,
And give my Mam hugs for a treat.

(Bianca)



Health

I was worried I might lose my health,
That's how I felt. (Milda)

Healthy people are the ones that don't go out,
But the sick people are the ones who run
about. (Lili)

Hugs

I miss hugs and I need air,
I'd like to cut my own hair. (Arvinkhuslen)

Hugs were always good I know,
But now they make the virus grow. (Sabina)



Infectious

Infectious germs will try to infect
But we'll be careful and try to detect.

(Ansus)

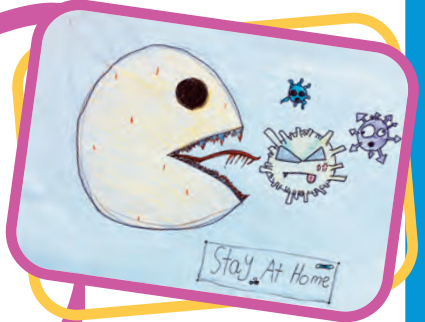
Internet

Everyone started to use the internet
Their eyes got tired I bet. (Amka)

Internet and instagram
All the time with my busy Mam (Daisy)

I think people use too much internet time
It's always a waste of time
Everyone needs some reading time! (Aima)

Internet now Covid's over? NO!
Play outside, go, go, go! (Belle)



Isolation

Isolation is hard,
Stay in your yard. (Jacob)

Isolation makes people do mad things
Going on a Netflix binge

And then decide to cut your own fringe (Willow)

Isolation was done,
Because immunity was none. (Cindy)





by **St Vincent's GNS**



ABC DEF

GHI JKLM

NOP QRS

TUV WXYZ

by St Vincent's GNS



Jab

Some people got a jab
It wasn't that fab

(Freaya)

Jammies

Just in our jammies
Hanging with our Mammies
and sometimes our Grannies
Staying at home I'm going bananies!

(Lexi and Hindi)



Jobs

Jobs from home
Or Covid will roam

(Queenena)

Joy

When Covid is gone, jump for joy,
Every girl and every boy!

(Millie Mai)



Keep

My cousin was very sick and had to keep
away for seven days

Then her sister got it and they had to
isolate for another seven days

I was cross because Mam had to collect
me from school.

I didn't have Covid but I still had to keep
away from school.

(Layla)



Kitten

My sister got a kitten
I'm glad she wasn't bitten!

(Daria)





ABC DEF

GHI JKLM

NOP QRS

TUV WXYZ

by St Vincent's GNS

Laptops

People have laptops when they are doing
zoom.

And they also have laptops to learn things.
Everyone is staying at home because they are
scared of Covid.

It's a bit strange but I think Covid came
because it is the END OF THE WORLD.

(Estera)

Learning

Learning at my kitchen table
I'm not able. (Sophia)

Learning at home
And learning lockdown. (El)

Online school was not okay,
10 things in one day (El)



Lockdown

Lockdown was tough,
We couldn't go out enough. (Freaya)

Lockdown was felt
But masks helped. (Darley Rose)

It is such a pity
That everyone in the city
Is lonely in lockdown (Queenia)



ABC DEF

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by St Vincent's GNS

Makeover

People gave themselves a makeover
and cut their own hair

They got so bored they dyed their hair
though they were going nowhere.

(Darley Rose)



Medicine

Now a lot of people use medicine to
make them feel better

But if this keeps happening there
won't be enough medicine for
everyone

So if everyone doesn't want this to
keep happening

They should keep their selves safe.

(Estera)





by St Laurence O'Toole CBS
(Larrier's CBS)



ABC DEF

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by St Laurence O'Toole CBS
(Lanier's CBS)



Negative

My sisters had a negative test,
That was really the best. (Milan)

Negative test
Means I can get dressed! (Mark)

Negative is good,
That is understood. (Cruz)

News

Negative news on the telly,
Made me sick in my belly. (Jayden)

News was always on the TV,
That scared me. (Jayden)



Nothing

Nothing to do, needles, nope
Never got it but I can't cope.

(Brody)

No

No going out,
Hanging about. (Artur)

No play,
Just stay. (Tymor)



ABC DEF

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TUV WXYZ

by St Laurence O'Toole CBS
(Lanier's CBS)

Omnicro

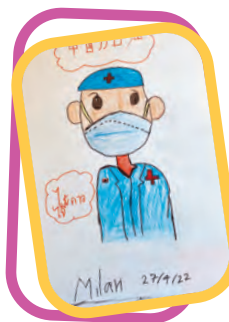
Then there was Omicron,
Aww come on! (Levi)

Omicron is a new Corona,
You have to stay all alone-a! (Maxim)

Online

Online I met my friend,
Then we played in the end.

(Kai)



Opposite

Opposite sides of the street,
We can't meet.

(Jayden)

Out

I always wanted to be a YouTuber
So when I couldn't go out to play
I started my own channel
And now it's here to stay. (J.J.)

I cannot go outside
Because of Covid 19
I hate Covid 19! (Lennix)

Nop

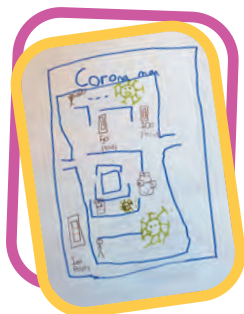
ABC DEF

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by St Laurence O'Toole CBS
(Lanier's CBS)



Past

I walked past someone and felt the
germs jump over to me.

I got Covid and gave it to all my
family.

Inside we had to stay
We had pizza takeaway.

(Max)

PCR

PCR tests were sore,
It was a bore. (Jayden)

PCR -
What's the score? (Maxim)



Phone

I used my phone
So I didn't feel alone.

(Levi)

Positive

Be positive please
Except for disease.

(Cruz)



by St Joseph's CBS Primary School
(Joey's CBS Fairview)

QRS

by St Joseph's CBS Primary School
(Joeys CBS Fairview)

Quarantine

Quarantine sucks
But I like books. (Daniel)

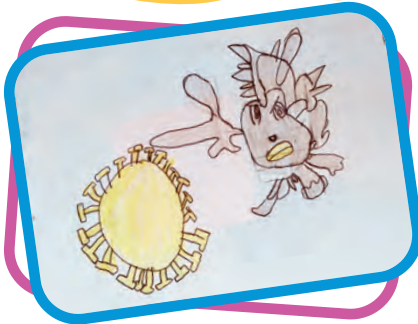
Quarantine is boring,
Starts us snoring. (Simon)



Queues

People were queuing for toilet rolls,
These were the Covid goals.

(Ollie)



Quit

Quit coming near,
Covid is here.

(Kevin)

ARS

by **St Joseph's CBS Primary School**
(Joeys CBS Fairview)



Reading

When I had Covid I done lots of reading.

People were stuck in their gardens weeding.

(Jenson)

Roadblocks

There were roadblocks for cars
In case you went too far.

(Simon)



Run

Running is fun every day
During Covid I ran 2K. (Daniel)

So that Covid wouldn't spread.

(Simon)



QRS

by **St Joseph's CBS Primary School**
(Joeys CBS Fairview)



Sanintise

Sanitiser stings,
I like the smell it brings.

(Kevin)

Swab

I preferred the thin one,
The thick one was no fun.

My mother stuck it up to
my eyeball.

My auntie didn't do it far
at all. (Tariq)

The swab was like a stick.

I had it five times, it
tickled a bit.
(Omar)



Social Distancing

Social distancing is everywhere
In shops it's a mare. (Daniel)

Social distance in shops and parks
We had to stand on the marks. (Jenson)



by St Laurence O'Toole's National School
(SLOTS)



Technology

I have a brain full of technology
Because of Covid virology.

(Vaishnavi)

Test

Testing was sore for me
Then I made a cup of tea (Mabel)

I had a test and it said no
Then I was able to go. (Muhra)

I tested negative twice.
I felt cold as ice. (Maddie)



Temperature

My temperature was high,
Covid, Goodbye!

(Jessica)



Unwell

I was unwell
I couldn't even smell.

(Ella)



Unable

Unable to play,
Unable to stay (Kendall)

Unable to go to the beach
Stay at home and eat a peach
(Amelia)

Unable to go to the shop
To get a new mop! (Betty)





Vaccine

I got my vaccine
Then I got ice-cream!

(Macie)

Vizors

Sometimes the teacher had vizors,
So you recognise her.

(Damaris)



Video

We did video chats
With friends and cats (Preshys)

Video calling
When everyone was bawling.
(Mabel)

Video chat is fun,
Seeing everyone (Amelia)





by St Joseph's CBS Primary School
(Joey's CBS Fairview)



by St Joseph's CBS Primary School
(Joey's CBS Fairview)

Wash your hands

In the school
Boys keep clean
Wash your hands
It's Covid 19.

(Brian)



When

When Covid started
We were all parted.

(James)

Why

Why did Covid happen?
It's an assassin. (Noah)

Why does Covid even exist?
Shoot Corona and beat it up
Because it made me stay home
alone. (Ryan)

Why is Covid a thing?
It made my eyes sting. (Devon)

Why is Covid bold?
It made me cold. (Abdullah)

Why do you exist Covid?
You are so mean to our home.
You have no friends Covid, none!
When you speak, we sleep! (Eric)

Why do people use Zoom?
They're stuck in their room. (Alex D)

Why did Covid start?
It broke our hearts. (Kyle)

Why did you cough on me?
I would not cough on you. (Rafael)

Why do One-Minute Madness
characters
Get Covid too?
Just like me and you. (Matthew K.)

Why is Covid bad?
It made me bored. (Abdullah)

Why is Covid so old?
And I am getting bold. (Parker)



by St Joseph's CBS Primary School
(Joey's CBS Fairview)

X-BOX

X-box wins
when we're stuck in.

(Alex D)

I played with my friends on X-box
I wore no shoes and socks.

(Noah)



Xmas

Xmas was sad because I couldn't
see my friends
Until Covid ends. (Brian)

Xmas was a different scene
Because of Covid 19. (Logan)

Xmas different this year
Because Covid is here (James)



by St Joseph's CBS Primary School
(Joey's CBS Fairview)

YAY

Yay no school, boo no McDonalds!
We can't see our friends from O'Connell's.

(Alex D)



You

You stupid virus, why did you do
this?

You locked me in my house with
no friends to visit.

(Adam)



Yes

Yes! No school in Covid
In case the germs exploded

(Kyle)





by St Joseph's CBS Primary School
(Joey's CBS Fairview)



ZAP

Z is for Zap!
Shoot Covid off the map!

(Luis)

ZEBRA

I couldn't see zebras at the zoo
I missed my favourite animal
and the others too.

(Ryan M)



ZOOM

I had to Zoom with teacher and friends
It was a Covid trend. (Brian)

Why did you come to me stupid Covid fool?
You annoyed me and made me use Zoom for
school. (Jayden)

Zoom call, you are so bad
You make me feel mad. (Rafael)



First and foremost, we would like to extend a huge thank you to the NEIC for generously funding this project and for their support throughout. Additionally, we are grateful to local National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) staff for their guidance around this project. We would like to thank Stephen Bosonnet, Artist and Catherine Ann Cullen, Poet/Writer for their enthusiasm for this project, and their unfailing commitment to it and the participating children. We would like to also acknowledge the work of all the teachers, school staff and Home School Community Liaisons who helped us coordinate the delivery of this project in their school. Thanks also to ELI interns and support staff for their hard work in getting this project off the ground.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all of the primary school children that participated in this project and were willing to share their experiences to create such thoughtful poetry and fantastic artwork. This is your book and we really hope you love it as much as we do!



List of Authors and Artists

Workshops facilitated by Stephen Bosonnet, Artist and
Catherine Ann Cullen, Poet/Writer

ABC- Scoil Chaoimhín

Avril A S
Layla D
Hamsa E
Phoebe R
Luke McC
Molly Q M
Fionn B
Alysia B
Heidi B
Blake D
Jacob F
Remi McK
Zara M
Ben

DEF - Central Model

Anastasia A
Anaïsa B
Hao En C
Jonas Vasile G
Zara I
Aisha K
Natthakarn (Nathan) K
Christopher Alexander K
Callum M
Emma O
Ace R
Romy Ria R
Billie R
Celina S
Kaelem S
Mohammed T
Maistra T
Jacob V

GHI – Central Model

Nicoleta Franciska A
Iacov B
Amarsanaa (Amka) B
Belle B
Vihaan C
Yuan Yuan C
Uliano D
Alan G
Carlos H
Sabina J
Kyrylo K
Aima K
Sharvina K
Druva K
Arvinkhuslen L
Milda L
Eisa M
Willow Mae M
Tanzim M
Liliane P
Daisy T
Ansus U
Noah W
Cindy

JKLM- St Vincents GNS

El B
Lily C
Megan D
Sophia G
Layla G
Emily H
Stefania H
Emmy H
Freaya Kn
Millie Mai M
Hindi M
Lexi M
Millie O N
Daria O
Genelia R
Tabita R
Esteria S
Darley Rose T
Queenia Z



List of Authors and Artists

Workshops facilitated by Stephen Bosonnet, Artist and Catherine Ann Cullen, Poet/Writer

NOP – St Laurence O'Toole

CBS (Larrier's)
Braxton B
Lennix D
Jayden McC
Hudson P
Mark S
Tymor S
Milan R
Felix M
Kai M
Levi O
Max A
Brody O'B
Hayden W
Preston P
Marian I
Artur T
Maxim M
Cruz O'B
JJ K
Eduard M

TUV St Laurence O'Toole's National School

Dzhennifer A
Muhra A
Layla
Lily B
Ruby Grace C
Preshys E
Kendall E
Tara E
Lily F
Jessica G
Margina
Mabel K
Amelia K
Pamela M
Maddie O'D
Vaishnavi S
Damaris T
Macie T
Ella Rose W
Remi Blu W

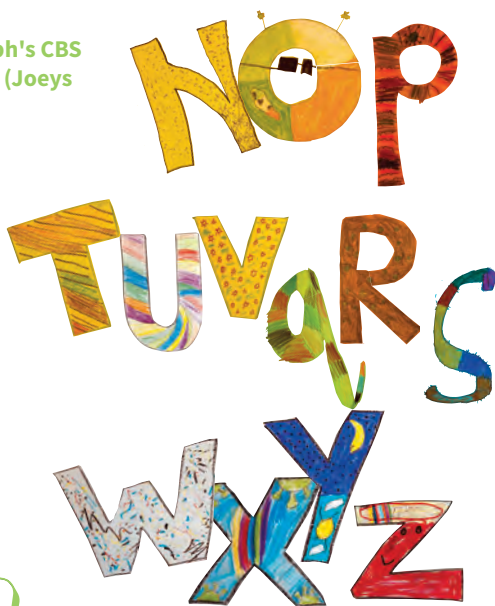
Catalin Alexandru H
Max Harris O'B
Kyle H
Kakhi K
James L
Oleh N
Denis S
Vasyl Sh
Parker W
Arthur Z
Kyle B
Cillian Gil
Arnas P
Séan S
Eric D
Matthew K
Joseph L
Noah B
Alex D
Brian O

QRS - St Joseph's CBS Primary School (JoeysCBS Fairview)

Omar A
Tymoteusz B
Jenson B
Daniel D
Ollie K
Davyd K
Roman McK
Adam N
Tariq O'N N
Kevin P
Jack R
Alan K S
Simon T
Stephen U
Artem V
Arthur Z

WXYZ – St Joseph's CBS Primary School (Joeys CBS Fairview)

Abdullah A
Rafael B
Adam Banach P
Yurii B
Alexander B
Jude B
Luca M C
Ryan C
Devon C
Jayden D
Luis F R
Logan F
Ryan G





Early Learning Initiative
National College of Ireland



**DUBLIN
NORTH EAST
INNER CITY**

