Writing a Valedictory Poem

Wednesday 29 June

A valedictory poem is a poem that someone might write or read out when they are leaving somewhere or something.

There has been a lot of people leaving recently. Messi retired from international football after missing a penalty this week. Roy Hodgson resigned after England lost to Iceland. And – away from the football – David Cameron decided he should step aside as Prime Minister. There’s a good chance one of your teachers is leaving your school in July. And if you’re in Year Six you probably are too (unless you attend a middle or other kind of school).

We’d like you to write a poem in the voice of someone who had chosen to leave. It could be Messi. It could be Hodgson. It could be you, your teacher.

Before you start, try to think of a few key words to do with the person you are choosing. They might help you with your ideas. Take David Cameron. Words related to him could be Brexit, Downing Street, Prime Minister, Number 10. Then search for another word that rhymes with that key word. For example:

Brexit       exit
Street       beat
Minister     sinister
Ten          den
How’s this?

After we voted Brexit  
No longer Prime Minister  
David had to exit  
Life might be a bit less sinister  
Leaving Downing Street  
Goodbye number ten  
To walk another beat  
Time to find another den.

Not great! You can do better than that. And if you don’t like rhyming, then you don’t have to.