

Newsletter

Friday 10th November 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely welcoming families back this week following the half term break. Children have returned settled and ready to learn and we have much to be proud of this week.

We have enjoyed our second tour for prospective EYFS parents, which was very well-attended, with many visitors commenting positively on the tour and how calm, settled and welcoming our school and pupils are. We have also enjoyed visits to the local library and welcomed parents in for a further Reading Café.

We have also, this week, received highly positive external feedback on our Phonics (Sounds Write) and reading provision, demonstrating the hard work and dedication of our staff and the firm foundations we are setting, working in partnership with parents, to support children in their reading journey. It was particularly recognised how engaged parents are with recording home reading in pupil planners - thank you for your support with this.

To mark Remembrance Day this week we led an assembly for key stage one and two, reflecting on why we commemorate this day and the importance of the poppy. Today we created space in the day to reflect further with a minute's silence, closing with a lovely rendition of the Last Post being played by Ivy Pannell.



Looking ahead to the coming weeks, our parents' evenings are fast-approaching on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st November. The bookings are now live - please do see Class Dojo and emails for the booking links.

If you have any questions relating to your child, or key messages for your class teacher, please do contact them via a message on Class Dojo or using admin@placefarm.org.uk.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs McConnell
Head of School



Upcoming Dates:

November

- 16th November: Reception 2023 Open Event for prospective Early Years parents 9.15am
Year 3 parents maths session 3:30pm in the hall
Reading Café for 3SJ - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
2SA Haverhill library visit
- 20th November: Parents' Evening (3.45-7.30) – bookings live
- 21st November: Parents' Evening (3.45-5.30) - as above
- 23rd November: Year 2 parents maths session 3:30pm in the hall
Reading Café for 3KM - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
2LA Haverhill library visit
- 24th November: Year 6 Trip to Mosque
- 30th November: Reception 2023 Open Event for prospective Early Years parents 9.15am
Year 1 parents maths session 3:30pm in the hall
1ED Haverhill library visit
Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop

December

- 4th December: Year 1 Church visit
- 7th December: Reading Café for 4RG - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
1ES Haverhill library visit
- 13th December: Year 3 Stone Age experience day
- 14th December: Reading Café for 4KM - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
Rainbow Haverhill library visit
- 15th December: Carols on the playground and Christmas in Day – more information to follow
- 19th December: EYFS and Year 1 Christmas Nativity
- 20th December: EYFS and Year 1 Christmas Nativity

School term ends 21st December

January

- 3rd January: PD Day – school closed
- 4th January: Spring terms starts – (Thursday)**
- 11th January: Reading Café for 5JG - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
- 18th January: Reading Café for 5CM - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
- 24th January: Year 6 Residential to Manor Adventure (until 26th January)

February

- 1st February: Reading Café for OAP - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
- 8th February: Reading Café for OLP - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
- 15th February: Reading Café for 6EJ - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
- Half term: 19th-23rd February**
- 29th February: Reading Café for 6SL - 9:00-9:30 in school hall



EYFS



We are delighted to see all of the children back in school after the half term holiday.

This half term we will be focusing on 'People who Help Us'. We have planned visits from the Police and Firefighters. Our focus book this week has been 'Zog and the Flying Doctor'.

The children have loved being doctors and nurses this week and we have turned our home corner into a doctor's surgery.

The children are becoming more confident during both our Maths and Sounds-Write sessions; blending words to read and segmenting words to write. In Maths, the children have been using part whole models and looking at two parts and the total amount.



Year 1

The children in Year 1 have really been enjoying our new unit in Art – Painting. Last week, the children painted different materials and textures in primary colours and learnt the dip, dip, dab method to do so. This week they have been practising their brush strokes by making different marks in their books.



In Science, the children have been looking at garden plants and wild plants. This week they started to look at the parts of a tree. In our next Science lessons, the children will be learning about deciduous and evergreen trees.



In our writing lessons we are looking at story writing. We have been looking at using a noun and adjective in a sentence and next week we will start to plan our stories. In our Reading lessons we have started to look at 'The Storm Whale'.

In Maths, we have been looking at numbers to 20 including: ordering numbers on a number line, comparing numbers and number patterns.



Sport and PE at Place Farm



Over the past half term, it has been fantastic to see so much sport going on at Place Farm. The children have been looking at sports such as Netball and Basketball in PE and then working on their teamwork skills in a range of team building games in the hall.

Outside of lessons, clubs have been almost full each day with lots of children getting the chance to try new things such as Laser Tag and Archery! **Don't forget to sign up for this half term!**



As well as clubs, some children have been lucky enough to represent the school in both Cross Country and Football and we look forward to more competitions coming up this year!



Children in Need



Friday 17th November is Children in Need. This year, the children should come to school dressed in school uniform as normal, but alongside this they may wear:

- an accessory that is spotty, striped or yellow and/or
- A brightly coloured t-shirt alongside their uniform (rather than a shirt and tie).

We are not specifying a donation of any given amount; we would be grateful for any donations to this worthy cause.

There will also be a cake sale on the playground after school. We are asking, if possible, for children to bring cakes in for us to sell. We would need these in from Wednesday onwards to be sold on Friday. These can be handed to your child's class teacher.

We hope you will take part!



A weekend story/ poem from Miss Jenkins

Take a moment this weekend to sit and read the story/poem below. Discuss with your child/children the meaning behind the text. What have they learnt? Can they write something similar following the same structure/ story line? If they do come up with something amazing, please send it my way so I can display it in the library 😊

I Can Read Your Mind

by
DANNY WALLACE

Hey, did you know that even though this is a book, and I can't see you,
I can read your mind?

Did you?

No, you didn't.

Do you know how I knew that?

Because I can READ YOUR MIND!

I am a skilled mind reader, and this is the first mind-reading
book. I am such a skilled mind reader, in fact, that I know EXACTLY
WHAT YOU'RE THINKING RIGHT THIS VERY SECOND.

Do YOU know what you're thinking right this very second?

Well, obviously you do. If you didn't, it'd be weird. If you didn't,
you would have roughly the intelligence of a courgette. And not one of
the smarter ones.

But listen, Courgette Face, do you want ME to tell YOU what
YOU'RE thinking when I tell you I am actually a very skilled mind
reader?

You're thinking, NO YOU'RE NOT!

Am I right? Am I?

OF COURSE I'm right, because I am a VERY SKILLED MIND
READER!

Now, let's make things interesting. Think about the very worst
thing you ever did.

Go on. Think about that time you tripped up a nun or ate your cat's
food or called a badger a very rude name indeed.

Think of it ... NOW!

Oh my GOSH! I can't believe you did that.

Oh my GOSH! You are a terrible human being.

Oh my GOSH! Why would you think of that when you KNEW I
would know?!

Does anyone else know you did that? Do your PARENTS?

Well, whatever you do, DON'T TELL THEM YOU DID THAT or
they'll SELL YOU ON eBay or swap you for somebody better behaved,
like a BURGLAR!

In fact, let's pretend that never happened.

Try and think of NOTHING AT ALL. I want you to COMPLETELY
blank your mind.

Wow, that was quick.

Not a lot going on up there, eh?

Well, now I want you to breathe. Deeply.

Breathe in through the nose, and out through the mouth.

Just relax.

And now close your eyes.

...
Hello?

...
HELLO? Why aren't you reading? HELLO?

Oh, I know what's happened.

Hey, OPEN YOUR EYES!

OPEN YOUR EYES AGAIN AND KEEP READING!

HELLO?! OPEN! YOUR! EYES!

...
Well, that's great. You can't read that, so you've just kept your eyes
shut. I mean, what am I supposed to do now? Just wait for you to come
back?

Hang on. I know.

I'll read your mind again.

...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU THINK I'VE GOT ALL THE
INTELLIGENCE OF A COURGETTE?!

I'm off.

So, just read the next piece in this book, and I'll TRY not to tell
anyone you once tripped a nun and love eating cat food!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Insider, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.11.2023

Flu Immunisation information

This is the link for giving consent for your child to have the flu vaccine (mentioned in the poster below):

<https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2023/suffolk>

Flu immunisation for pupils in school years Reception - Year 11

DEAR PARENT/CARER,

The flu vaccine is being offered at your child's school again this autumn/winter.

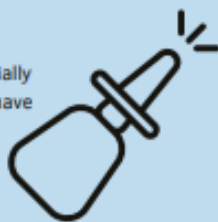
To give consent for your child to have the flu vaccine, please click here:

<https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2023/suffolk>

Even if you do not wish for your child to have the vaccine, please complete the online form so that we can record your wishes.

THE NASAL FLU VACCINE

- ✓ Protects your child from the flu.
- ✓ Protects your family and friends from the flu (especially those who are elderly, young babies, or those who have serious health conditions).
- ✓ Is painless, quick and effective.
- ✓ Is free



THE IM FLU VACCINE



We also offer the flu vaccine as an injection, which is **gelatine-free**. This may also be the vaccine of choice for vegans. Please go to our website where you can find out more about the manufacturing of the flu injection, and then decide if the injection is more suited to your child.

You only need to complete one consent form for each child. If you later change your mind, please call your local team. If your child has this immunisation elsewhere after you have submitted the consent form, you **MUST** inform Vaccination UK rather than the school.

We understand that you may have questions about the vaccine. For more information, please go to our website, where you can find a list of FAQ's, as well as details of our community catch up clinics. We also have some FAQ's enclosed below.

You can also find informational videos on our YouTube channel, including subtitled versions for other languages.

Yours Faithfully,
Your Local Immunisation Team
Vaccination UK



SUFFOLK
Immunisation Team
Contact Details



suffolk@v-uk.co.uk



01603 394 103

WORKING ON BEHALF OF

NHS
England

USEFUL INFO



We endeavour to come to your child's school twice. If they are absent or unable to be vaccinated at school, you will need to attend one of our community clinics for the vaccine. Details of these can be found on our website or you can contact the team above.



PLEASE NOTE the flu vaccine will **NOT** be available to otherwise healthy children after December 15th at all, and so we urge you to return the consent form as soon as possible in case we are not able to visit your child's schools for a second visit this year.



Your consent will remain in place for the entire flu season. If your child misses a first visit, you do not need to complete a second form.

USEFUL LINKS



www.schoolvaccination.uk/nasal-flu

www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk



PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2023/24 policy can be viewed here:

www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy

For data protection queries, please contact:
dpo@vaccinationuk.co.uk

Reading at Home 😊

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads	A student who reads	A student who reads
20:00	5:00	1:00
minutes per day	minutes per day	minute per day
will be exposed to 1.8 MILLION words per year	will be exposed to 282,000 words per year	will be exposed to 8,000 words per year

Please ensure you make time, every evening, to listen to your child read – even if it is just for a couple of minutes. You will be exposing them to new vocabulary which will be improving their understanding and building a bank of new words to use.

How should it be recorded once I have listened to them?

EYFS, KS1 and Rainbow	KS2
Once you have heard your child read, please write in their planner which page they got up to and sign it. The teacher will then look out for this the following day 😊	Once your child has read to you, they can write in their planner which page they got up to but please can you sign next to it. The teacher will then look out for this the following day 😊

If you have any questions about reading at home, please do message Miss Jenkins on Class Dojo.