

Newsletter

Friday 24th November 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all who visited during parents' evenings this week - it was great to see such a fantastic turnout, and to welcome you all in school. Thank you also to those who completed our school questionnaire - again, we had some great responses which we will look to share over the coming weeks.

It was a very busy Celebration assembly this morning - so lovely to see the wide range of our pupils' achievements over time. Further photos are enclosed.

Our Maths workshops remain in full swing - the next one being for Year 1 next week. Thank you to those parents and carers who have attended those so far - we have had some great feedback and hope that you have found these useful.



Next week we have another exciting week with prospective EYFS tours, the Year 2 Great fire of London Day and further library visits.

Please be aware that there is no school crossing patrol at the end of the day on 29th November, so extra vigilance will be needed when crossing the roads.

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

- 29th November: No school crossing patrol at the end of the school day
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 day

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: No school crossing patrol at the start of the school day
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
No school crossing patrol all day
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

Art at Place Farm

Since coming back to school in September, the children have been engaging in their Art and Design sessions. It has been wonderful to look through their sketch books and see some fantastic pieces that have been created with pride and attention to detail. As the children progress through the school, in their sketch books, they are demonstrating the ability to apply previously taught skills alongside their year group specific, techniques.

Year 1

Painting - The children in Year One have been focusing on Piet Mondrian and taking inspiration from his work to create their own final piece.



Year 3

Printing - Using rollers the children have been taught the mono printing technique.



Year 4

Painting - Focusing on applying the tertiary colours to their artistic explorations they have been applying their previously taught knowledge of primary and secondary colours to mix and create these colours.



Year 5.

Printing - The children in Year five have used polystyrene squares to create their own, individual prints to learn about the technique - Reduction printing.



Year 6

Drawing - Using Frieda Kahlo as their inspiration the children in Year Six have been creating self-portraits.



Rainbow class have been taking inspiration from Van Gogh and Picasso to create self-portraits.



3KM Reading Cafe

On Thursday, we held our Reading Cafe for 3KM. The children loved sharing books with their families, we even had some younger siblings joining us again! This week, we discussed the question "Which story would you like to see made into a film?" I hope you enjoy reading their ideas.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Reading Cafes, and we look forward to seeing more of you very soon 😊



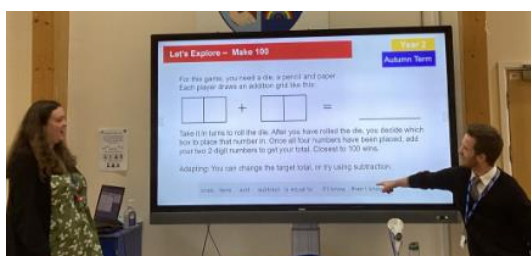
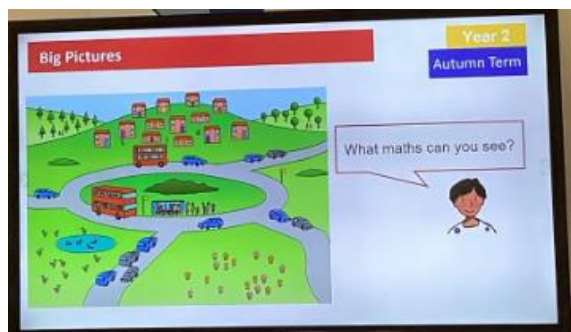
2LA Library Trip

The children in 2LA visited Haverhill library on Thursday. They enjoyed exploring the fantastic variety of books that they had on offer, followed by a lovely story read by the librarian.



Year 2 parent/carer maths workshop

On Thursday, we held a maths parent workshop for Year 2 parents and carers. Thank you so much to all those who attended. During this session, we covered: what the children have been learning this term, how they are taught these concepts and ideas in class and how to support and reinforce this learning at home.



We will be running a similar session for Year 1 parents/carers on Thursday 30th November.

Celebration Assembly

A huge congratulations to all of the children who received a certificate in celebration assembly.



Children in Need

It was fantastic to see so many children with accessories and clothing for representing Children in Need. Thank you so much for your donations and for the cakes that were brought in for the cake sale.



Christmas Holiday Activities

1. **Abbeycroft Leisure:** Please see the document that was posted on the school story this week with the activities that Abbeycroft Leisure will be providing.
2. **Prestige Sports:** Over the Xmas Holiday Period Prestige Sports have 3 days of Sports & Activity Camps in Haverhill on the 27th, 28th and 29th December.

They have 32 FREE spaces available for children who are eligible for free school meals through the HAF programme.

Parents can book using the following link:

<https://prestige-sports.classforkids.io/camp/128>

After booking online, parents will be asked to provide us with their 16 digit HAF code.

Holiday Camps will involve Sport Activities, Nerf, Laser Tag and a chill out zone with Arts and Crafts, games and much more. The camps for HAF run from 9am - 3.30pm and a packed lunch is provided by Prestige Sports.

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 ☺

The Ballad of Felicity Crow

by
LISA THOMPSON

Felicity Crow had a remarkable skill.

She was an expert at not being noticed.

You might think that this is an unwelcome attribute or something to be embarrassed about. A person with a larger ego than Felicity's might say: 'How insulting! Can you imagine being so insignificant that you're not even seen?'

But for Felicity Crow, not being noticed was a compliment. It was something that took skill and time to master. And not being noticed was her job.

Felicity wasn't a pickpocket.

She wasn't a burglar.

And she wasn't a spy.

Felicity Crow was, in fact, a magician's assistant. Not only that, she was the best magician's assistant that anyone had ever not noticed before.

She worked alongside the great magician, Bertram the Remarkable; a man with a short temper and even shorter legs. He would strut around the stage, commanding all of the audience's attention as he promised the most magical of tricks, the most spellbinding of illusions. Every eye would be focused on him; transfixed by his dark, curly moustache, his big, booming voice and the solid-gold watch swinging hypnotically from left to right.

There was simply no attention left for Felicity.

But Felicity didn't mind. This was the part of the job that she loved.

Nobody noticed when she slipped a playing card into the pocket of a man in the audience.

'How did *that* get there?' said the man.

No one noticed when she released the cabinet's false door to make Bertram disappear in a flash.

'He's gone!' gasped a lady in the front row.

And nobody noticed when she passed Bertram a key that fitted the padlock shackled to his wrists.

'How did he escape?' whispered the audience to each other.

The magic worked because of Felicity Crow. She was unnoticeable. Even to Bertram the Remarkable.

He didn't notice her on stage when he spread his arms wide to receive the audience's applause.

He didn't notice her after the show when he placed her measly wages on top of the box of props.

He didn't notice her quietly practising her own card tricks in the corner, with a skill way beyond his own.

And he didn't notice her when she stepped out into the darkest hour of the night, clutching a deck of cards in one hand.

As she hurried down the city streets, a solid-gold watch bumped against her leg through her dress pocket. Unsurprisingly, Bertram the Remarkable hadn't noticed that it had disappeared.

She smiled to herself as she planned how she would dazzle an audience, all of her own. Her show would be magnificent and full of wonder and like nothing anyone had ever seen before.

Felicity Crow was ready to be noticed.

Parent and carer support, coffee mornings and drop-ins

Date	Organisation	Location	Time
1st Monday of the month	Families Together	Haverhill, Chalkstone Community Centre	10AM-12PM
Weekly Monday	Arc Support SEN Group	Lavenham, Blue Vintage Tea Room	10.30AM-12.30PM
Weekly Wednesday	Arc Support SEN Group	Stanton, Stanton Village Hall	10AM-12PM
1st Thursday of the month	Family Action	Bury St Edmunds, Oakes Barn	10.30am-12pm



COFFEE MORNING

Come and join Neurodivergent Abilities for a relaxed coffee morning

The coffee morning is for those who are neurodiverse or part of a Neurodivergent family. A Family Advisor from Suffolk Family Carers ND Project will be available at each session to provide information, advice, guidance and support.

The Key Cafe, Ipswich
Last Thursday of the month
from 10am-12noon (term time only)

www.suffolkfamilycarers.org/ND-coffee-mornings/



beans
PARENT/CARER DROP-INS

A monthly group for parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people to ask questions, raise concerns and receive non judgemental support and guidance.

beans The Pavilion - Woodbridge

- Jetty Lane, Kingston Fields, Woodbridge, IP12 4BA.
- 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10am - 12pm.

beans Linden house - Bury St Eds

- 117 King's Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3DJ.
- 3rd Tuesday of the month, 10am - 12pm.

beans Sax'cess House - Saxmundham

- 21 High Street, Saxmundham, IP17 1AE.
- 4th Tuesday of the month, 10am - 12pm.

For more information, contact beans@accessct.org
call 07455 488199 or visit gobeans.co.uk

Date	Organisations	Location	Time
Weekly Friday	PACT	Online	6PM
Every Thursday	Arc Support SEN Group	Bury St Edmunds, The Bay Tree	10AM-12PM
1st Friday of the month	Families Together	Stowmarket, Stowmarket Community Centre	12.30-2.30PM
3rd Tuesday of the month	BEANS	Bury St Edmunds, Linden House	10AM-12PM
Last Thursday of the month	Suffolk Family Carers	Ipswich, The Key Cafe	10AM-12PM



SEND FAMILY GROUPS

For parents, carers and children with diagnosed or undiagnosed special educational needs and disabilities. Please contact the allocated coordinator to register prior to attending.

SEND Families Unite Haverhill	Chalkstone Community Centre	1st Monday of every month	10am - 12pm	Stephen 07925 138188
SEND Families Unite Stowmarket	Stowmarket Community Centre	1st Friday of every month	12:30pm - 2pm	Vickie 07754 764477

Forest Schools

Our SEND Forest School sessions run in blocks of 8 weeks with locations and time changing after each block. Please contact Vickie for up to date details on these sessions on 07754 764477 or Vickie@families-together-suffolk.org.uk

Christmas Tree Switch On & Fireworks

Saturday 2 December



12.00pm – 4.30pm

Charity & trade stalls, vintage steam rally attractions, street performers and more!
Queen Street/High Street & Market Square

From 4.30pm (approx)

Christmas Lights Switch-on with performances and the star of 2023 HAC pantomime **Scott Wright** (Coronation Street) **Market Square**

5.30pm

FREE fireworks display Recreation Ground

Plus, don't miss!

The Makers Market

Santa's Grotto in Queen Square

Walking Nativity at Haverhill Methodist Church, 12pm

The Get Suffolk Reading Town Trail

PLUS have your photo taken with Santa's Sleigh & Reindeer!

Various times & locations

Thanks to Haverhill and District Family History Group for the vintage images. The organisers reserve the right to change the programme at late notice.



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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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