



Headteacher: Mrs J Sendall

Wednesday 25th March, 2020

An update on Place Farm Virtual School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are hugely grateful for your support with home learning, at this very challenging time. Our teachers have really enjoyed speaking with you in the last few days. We have provided you with a lot of work in the home learning packs for your children, which provide enough resources for your child until the Easter break. After Easter, we intend to open our 'Place Farm Virtual School'.

As you can imagine, looking at possible options for virtual learning has been a huge undertaking, mainly because of the detailed thinking that needs to go into how this would work in practice. We are eager to ensure that our virtual learning provision is as accessible as possible, and as easy as possible for both yourselves and the teachers to maintain contact.

As we move towards a virtual approach, please be reassured that we do not expect you to access and use all of the online learning, all of the time. We fully appreciate the difficulties of managing learning at home, and spending time with family, re-connecting and enjoying the simple things in life, are equally important to completing work. We will aim to provide a manageable amount of formal work each day (up to 2 hours), plus opportunities and suggestions for 'other' types of learning, for example exercise, and activities to help with well-being.

Class Dojo

At the moment, we are looking to use Class Dojo to deliver our Place Farm Virtual School. This is an online platform that allows the sharing of work between teachers and pupils, and also an ability for pupils to upload completed pieces of work, for teacher feedback. It also enables communication between teachers, children and parents. We understand that, as parents, you may struggle to fully support your children with some aspects of their work; please rest assured that Class Dojo would allow you to give this feedback, and teachers can then address this by providing further explanations and completed examples to support you.

We also appreciate that access to printers, Microsoft Word and Powerpoint may also be an issue in some households; this too will be addressed as we move forward.



Place Farm Primary Academy
Camps Road
Haverhill
Suffolk CB9 8HF

Tel: 01440 702 836
Email: admin@placefarm.org.uk
placefarm.org.uk



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Given the open-ended accessibility of the online world, we will need to provide guidelines for teachers, parents and children to work within, to ensure that communication is manageable and appropriate. We will set specific times as to when teachers will respond to parent communication via Class Dojo, so that everyone is clear of how it will be used.

We are about to trial this app with one class for the moment, to try and ensure that we anticipate any issues, before rolling it out further. We will provide you with further details of this shortly.

Homes without Internet Devices

For the minority of families, without any internet device at all, please be assured that we will continue to post out learning packs, on a weekly basis, where this is necessary. I am sure you will appreciate that feedback from the teacher will not be possible in the same way as through Class Dojo. If you have any questions about the learning provided, please do ask these during your weekly phone calls with the class teacher.

Accelerated Reader

Maintaining opportunities for reading at home is of huge importance. Reading is an absolutely essential skill, and it also provides a form of escapism and relaxation that is incredibly important in these times of uncertainty.

We want to ensure that we offer a comprehensive reading provision from home, which allows all children the opportunity to read, irrespective of what books they have at home. With this in mind, we are looking at how we can access digital books through Accelerated Reader, and other online sites. This will mean that children can continue to read and hopefully, where appropriate and possible, continue to quiz. Again, we will give you full details of this, once everything has been set up.

Many thanks for your continued support and feedback. We are working incredibly hard as a school to try and meet the day-to-day challenges before us and, most importantly, to continue to ensure that pupils and families are at the heart of all we do.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa McConnell (Deputy Headteacher) and Tom Wade (Assistant Headteacher)



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