

Newsletter



Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your ongoing support, over the last two weeks: I am incredibly proud of how our community is working together to support one another. I am sure you can appreciate that the last two weeks has been very difficult for everyone, and all the staff at Place Farm are missing seeing your children in person and are working incredibly hard to set up our online Place Farm Virtual School, to begin after the Easter break.

We will be doing our very best to get everyone engaged with our Virtual School. We will have a small number of iPads available, after Easter, that we will be able to loan to families, who do not have a device in the home, and we are working with the Trust to source more. In the meantime, we will post home learning packs to those families, who do not have any device at home.

I will be sharing a Celebration Assembly video on Class Dojo, every Friday after Easter: please do join us at the usual time of 9.00am for this. We are determined to continue to share good news and celebrate achievements, whilst school is closed.

Whilst we are aware that we are now at the beginning of the Easter Holidays, we hope that all children will engage in two activities over the holiday period. The first is to **design a miniature garden** - information is on the next page of this newsletter. Please do Tweet photographs of the miniature gardens that the children make, tagging Place Farm - **@PlaceFarmAcad**. The second is to learn to sign, using **Makaton to a song** (Fight Song - Rachel Platten). You can find a link to this on our Twitter. If you want to share short videos of your children signing this song, we would love to see them: again, please tag in Place Farm - **@PlaceFarmAcad**.

We are here to support you and your families in any way we can. Please do contact the school on **01440 702836** / **admin@placefarm.org.uk** or email the class teachers, via their year group emails with any questions.



Kind regards,

Jane Sendall
Headteacher

Design a miniature garden

ACTIVITY

In this activity children can design and plan a garden and make a miniature version of it using natural or found objects. You could gather these from your garden or from a local walk.

- **Estimated time:** 2 hours (could be 30 minutes a day)

Learning objectives

- Create an object to develop and share experiences, ideas and imagination
- Experiment with a range of media
- Interpret a theme to create an object



Preparation

Decide on a theme and ask children to design a garden on paper beforehand. Examples: wildlife gardening, dinosaurs, springtime, summer fun or desert gardens.

You could link the garden to a favourite book with younger children, e.g. a Peppa Pig garden.

Equipment needed

- Any small containers such as a shallow dish, an old baking tray, an empty ice-cream tub, a small plastic carton or a seed tray or similar
- Potting compost or mud
- Plants, flowers, vegetables and seeds (you could improvise with any material, e.g. playdough/cardboard/paper, if you are unable to use real plants, vegetables, flowers or seeds)
- Collected natural materials such as moss, pines cones, leaves, cuttings from hedges and twigs
- Miniature figures (these can be drawn and cut out) or toys fitting the theme, e.g. a Peppa Pig figure
- Modelling clay or playdough, lollipop sticks (or any sticks or twigs) and gravel or small stones



Step by step

1. Fill the container with compost or mud; level off with the side of a ruler to create an even surface.
2. Following the plan, add in structures and garden ornaments, such as gravel paths, garden bench, a lid for pond, a fence, a wigwam or a bridge made of twigs or lolly sticks.
3. You could place plant material such as carrot, parsnip and celery tops in a lid full of water to sprout into trees in a few days. Or you could draw and cut out plants and flowers to add to your design.
4. Then add other natural materials such as twigs, moss, small stones or pine cones to the design, if desired.
5. At the last moment, add in cuttings of broccoli florets, herbs, flowers and shrubs to create a tree effect.
6. Add in any figures linked to your garden theme.

Finally

- Share your work: upload a picture of your miniature garden to Twitter, tagging Place Farm Primary Academy: @PlaceFarmAcad

Class Dojo

This week, teachers will have informed you that we have started to roll out Class Dojo to all year groups, from EYFS through to Year Six. Therefore, it is really important that you check your email inboxes regularly, so that you and your child can access their QR code, if they haven't done so already, in order to access tasks that are set by your child's teacher. The email will be from a PFPA year group email address. Therefore, if you are having trouble setting your child up on Class Dojo, you can respond to the email address, and the teacher will be able to assist you in setting up the account.

When you are connected, Class Dojo will give you and your child access to communicate with their class teacher. It is really important that your child checks in and completes their work on a daily basis, starting from Monday 20th April, so that they do not miss set tasks or activities to engage with, through the 'Class Story' or 'Portfolio' tab. **Work will be set by 8:30am from Monday through to Friday.**

As parents, you may have questions that you wish to ask the teacher as well, and you can ask these through the 'Messages' tab. **However, it is very important to note that teachers will only respond to messages between 8:30am and 9:30am and 2:00pm and 3:00pm, between Monday and Friday.** Teachers will provide feedback to your child as regularly as possible, throughout the day. Your child will receive a notification when they receive feedback, through their Class Dojo app, or when they next log on to Class Dojo.

Hopefully, this will be an excellent way to bring quality-first virtual teaching to your front doors, but, if you are having any difficulties, please get in touch with the office, and the teachers will be in touch to support you.

Many thanks, Mr Wade



Hello Rainbow Class!

We hope that you have settled in well to your new way of learning. Over the next few weeks, we are going to be starting Class Dojo, an online learning platform, on which you will be able to upload work you have been doing at home, for us to see. We are very excited about this!

Also, after the Easter holidays, we will be uploading a daily video onto Class Dojo, of us reading a story. We hope you will enjoy this, too! We are really looking forward to interacting with you all through Class Dojo. Stay safe and keep smiling,

Miss Waller and Miss Brown☺•



EYFS



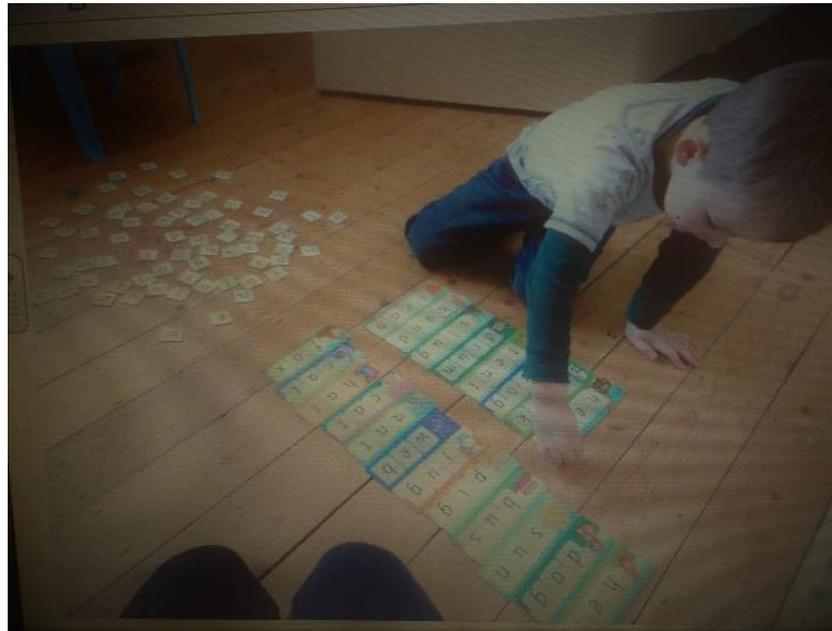
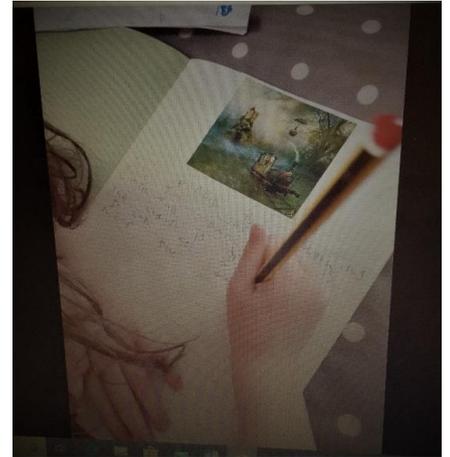
It has been wonderful to see so many Home Learning photos uploaded to EExAT: the children have been very busy working through their packs, keeping fit with Joe Wicks, and exploring the outdoors.

For those parents who have not been on EExAT for a while, you will be getting an email with login details. Please make sure that you read this and follow the guidance, to upload work for us to see. It really does put a smile on our faces!

We have been working hard from home, but miss seeing all of our little ones' faces. It has been nice to speak to you on the phone to see how they all are.

We would just like to say, thank you, keep supporting your child and make learning fun!

We really do appreciate it.



Mrs Payne and Miss Parry

Key Worker Pupils at Place Farm

Whilst our Key Worker parents have been busy undertaking their vital work, during this period of national crisis, their children have engaged in a new way of learning with wonderful enthusiasm!

As we wake up to a new world of unprecedented restrictions on everyday life, the idea of hope is evermore present in people's mind. This is why the Rainbow Trail has become a trending phenomenon on social media. Thousands of children up and down the country are painting pictures of rainbows to 'spread hope' during the coronavirus, by putting them in their windows to lift people's spirits.

Our pupils created a huge rainbow on the playground, to encourage people to stay indoors and stay safe:



In addition, to lift the spirits of residents in Cleves Place, our pupils created beautiful pictures, which were sent to the Care Home:



During the second week of provision in school, the children have continued starting their days, by joining in with the Joe Wicks workout. We have also been busy making Rainbows for our local Police Force and Ambulance Service to display in their vehicles. They had seen our giant chalk rainbow in the playground and wanted their own copies to carry with them. We were lucky enough to be able to hand over our rainbows, when we had a police car and ambulance visit the school.



As well as this, the children have been learning Gary Barlow's song 'Sing', completing their home learning packs, and getting active in their PE lessons.

We look forward to seeing some of our key worker children in school, over the Easter holidays!



All staff at Place Farm Primary Academy would like to thank you for your ongoing support, during this unusual time.

We are available, as a school, to support and assist you and your children and can be contacted on 01440 702836 or via admin@placefarm.org.uk

Please find below a list of organisations that can provide additional assistance if required:

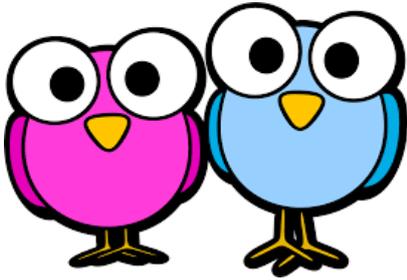
- Suffolk Parenting Network – <http://spcn.org.uk/parent-career-support/>
- Finding a Food Bank - <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
- <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/>
- <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/our-blog/dealing-with-conflict-at-home>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- Child Line – 0800 11 11
- Young Minds Crisis – If a young person is experiencing a mental health crisis they can text YM to 85258 for free 24/7 support.

Children's safety remains very important to us at Place Farm Primary Academy. If you are concerned or worried that a child or young person is at risk of harm, abuse or neglect, please contact our **Safeguarding Team** on **01440 702836** or via PlaceFarmSafeguarding@placefarm.org.uk

Suffolk Local Authority can also be reached on 0808 800 4005.

TOP TIPS!

Using a grounding technique is a great way to stop your mind racing! Ours is called 5,4,3,2,1! Look around your environment and tick off in your head or out loud with your family...



Things you can see...



Things you can hear...



Things you can feel...



Things you can smell...



Things you can taste...