

Newsletter



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been so wonderful to welcome children and families back to school this week and of course, to welcome our new children and families to Place Farm. The children have been amazing - returning to school so calmly, purposefully and enthusiastic about their learning - as you can see from the enclosed photographs. Our youngest pupils have started their Place Farm journey brilliantly and have already started learning and demonstrating our Golden Rules!

During our recent PD day we reflected on our refreshed Vision Statement (see below), and focused on our priorities and expectations for 2023-2024, as we continue to strive to provide the very best learning experience for every child.

Please see enclosed some important dates for this term that have been pencilled in so far, including the important &iLearn parent sessions that were scheduled last term for parents in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs McConnell
Head of School



Vision Statement

Our vision is for Place Farm Primary Academy to be an excellent school, where best practice and excellent CPD, high achievement, inclusion and well-being are at the heart of everything we do for our children and for our staff

Calendar:

September:

Parent workshops for &iLearn – please see the information contained in this newsletter regarding dates. All parents of children in Years 4-6 need to attend a session for children to be able to use 1:1 ipads at home.

Meet the Teacher dates – in the hall:

Year 2 - 2:50pm on 18th September

Year 1 - 8:50 on 19th September

Year 5 - 2:50pm on 19th September

Year 6 - 2:50pm on 20th September

Year 3 - 2:50pm on 21st September

Year 4 - 2:50 pm on 22nd September

October:

19th October: Autumn School disco (more information to follow)

Half term: 23rd October – 3rd November

Return to school 6th November

November:

Parents' Evenings: 20th November (3.45-7.30); 21st November (3.45-5.30)– more information to follow

December:

Carols on the playground and Christmas in a Day: Friday 15th December – more information to follow

EYFS and Year 1 Christmas Nativity: Tuesday 19th December and Wednesday 20th December – more information to follow

School term ends Thursday 21st December

January:

PD Day: 3rd January 24

Spring term starts Thursday 4th January

Half term: 19th – 23rd February

Attendance

As you are aware, your child's school attendance is hugely important. We are aiming this year to have our whole school attendance above 96%. We will be working with families to ensure that every child's attendance is as high as it can be this academic year. If you are having any issues regarding attendance please do contact the office, who will be happy to support or guide you to a member of SLT to help. Please see the link below with further information from Suffolk County Council regarding attendance and support for families:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/pupil-attendance-and-welfare/school-attendance-and-penalty-notice>

Uniform



It has been so lovely to see the children looking smart and professional in their Place Farm uniform. Just a reminder that children can wear the summer uniform until October half term. All uniform expectations are published on our school website (see link below). We are also looking to ensure children are wearing more consistent PE uniform. Please can you send the children in for PE in:

- Either a plain white polo shirt/plain white t-shirt or **polo shirt with school logo** from supplier.
- Blue shorts
- Blue jogging bottoms (optional)
- Trainers
- Blue socks (optional)

<https://placefarm.org.uk/uniform>

Dropping off in the morning

Now that children are familiar with the morning arrangements and where to find their classroom, we ask please that (like last year), parents aim to drop off children at the school gates, rather than walking across the playground. This is to reduce congestion on the playground, particularly when children are bringing in scooters and bikes, and to encourage children in developing their independence in walking to class. We do understand that this cannot always be the case.

If you wish to communicate a message to your child's class teacher, please aim to use Class Dojo wherever possible, or if a longer conversation is required, please contact the office to arrange an appointment.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

What a fantastic start to the term!

Wow, what a fantastic start to the new school year. Walking around the school and into classrooms, you would not believe that the children have just had six weeks away from school. The children have shown a great attitude and engagement towards their learning and have really hit the ground running.

Please see a small snapshot of the great attitude to learning seen in all classes from Reception up to Year 6.





&iLearn Project: Parent Meetings for current Years 3-5 (Years 4-6 in September)

For those parents whose children are now in Years 4-6 - please read below regarding information about upcoming parent workshops. These have been shared previously by email – you only need to attend one. Please contact Mr Gudgeon if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT DATES

Our parent workshops will be on:

Year 6 – 8th September @2:40pm

12th September @5:00pm

Year 5 – 11th September @2:40pm

13th September @5:00pm

Year 4 – 12th September @2:40pm

14th September @5:00pm



On Thursday 12th October we will be taking part in Bloomsbury's Harry Potter Book Day.

To celebrate the day, the children can dress up in wizard costumes and donate £1.00 to the school library. We are hoping that with the funds collected we can buy new books 😊

During the day the children will take part in a Magical Places creative writing session from the Great Hall, a spellcasting class from platform nine and three-quarters and a How To Draw Hogwarts session with Evanna and Harry Potter illustrator Jonny Duddle.



Instead of buying a costume, why not make your own!

Please note there is no pressure for children to dress up if they do not wish to – the focus is on enjoying the event! If they do not wish to dress up then they should attend wearing school uniform as normal.

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 Gift of Time

by
SITA BRAHMACHARI

with illustration by
JANE RAY

Homage to Dr A.K. Brahmachari (1931–2008) and Iris

Our dad was a dad with a big smile, a huge heart and an easy laugh. He was also a doctor who travelled on a ship from India in 1959 responding to the call from 'The Motherland' to help create the newly founded National Health Service.

I have a photo (you might have something like it in your family archive) of not-yet our dad in a long coat, Marlon Brando style, so young and handsome with a full head of hair, at the moment of arrival pigeons landing on his hands, standing with fellow doctors who had made that long journey together.

In the background is a mother holding a child paddling in a fountain. A mother and a child my dad might later treat in a hospital; or in his GP surgery working side by side with my mum, Freda,

a nurse. Or they might one day meet in a post office – yes, a post office ... and if you're willing to pass the time of day with me, you'll see why!

When I look at that early photo of Dad, I have a thousand memories I could share of acts of kindness to patients that I witnessed every day as a child, but this one makes me think of now ...

One day, when I was nine years old, I tagged along with Dad to the local town. He had letters to send to India at the post office. That 'Anyone want to come along with me on a little trip?' became a whole morning. He met an old lady in the queue. Frail but determined, she held a letter in her hand. 'On its way to Canada, Doctor!' she explained. 'For my newborn great-great-granddaughter's birthday.'

That woman's name was Iris.

My dad took her arm and enquired about her health. Leaving the post office, we walked her to her door and were invited in. 'We won't be long,' my dad assured a sighing me.

The tea, Iris insisted on preparing herself in china teacups painted with violets. She would not let Dad help her pour the boiling water into the chipped brown teapot she covered with a rainbow-knitted cosy. 'We can get a few cups out of this, Doctor!' she said, patting it.

Time slowed. A ladybird crawled into the daffodil trumpet on the table. There were pictures of her family on her mantelpiece.

The teapot finally emptied.

Driving home in our metallic green Beetle, Dad explained to me. 'I have known Iris all my working life and I don't think she has long to live.'

Two weeks later, I accompanied Dad on a home visit to Iris's door. When he returned to the car, tears flowed down his cheeks, as they did mine, as they do now at the memory of his words and gift – 'It was Iris's time.'