

# Newsletter



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a fabulous week at school. It has been lovely seeing how quickly our youngest children in our EYFS classes are settling and the children have enjoyed being able to spend lunchtimes on the field and having playtimes outside.

Thank you for your support with helping the start of the day run smoothly by encouraging children to come into school independently from the gates - this really is helping.

School is closed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September for the Bank Holiday for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's State Funeral. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday.

Warmest regards

Jane Sendall  
Headteacher

## CALENDAR

### September

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September - Bank Holiday (School is closed)

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September - Year Two Meet the Teacher 8.45am (Hall)

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September - Year 6 Meet the Teacher 8.45am (Hall)

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - EYFS and 1ED Sounds-Write session 8.45-9.15

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September - 1ES and Year 2 Sounds-Write session 8.45-9.15

### October

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Flu Vaccine (EYFS-Y6)

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Last day of half term

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October - PD Day (School closed to pupils)

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October - First day of second half term

### November

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November - Children's Individual Photographs

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Flu Vaccine (Pick up for previously absent pupils session)

### December

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Last day of autumn term

## Applying for Free School Meals

If you think your child is eligible to benefit from this funding and to receive Free School Meals please apply directly via the Suffolk County Council website.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Your child will get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit but **no element of Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work fewer hours per week
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month), as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).

To check if your child is eligible, apply online for an immediate response or call 0345 606 6067 for advice.



# West Suffolk Youth Music at Abbeygate Sixth Form Centre

Why not have a go at one of our ensemble activities. Great performing opportunities, develop your ensemble skills, play with likeminded musicians!

**West Suffolk Youth Jazz**  
**Tuesday's 4:00-5:30**  
**Level: Grade 5 and above**



**West Suffolk Junior Music School**  
**Friday's 4:00-5:30**  
**Level: Beginner to Grade 4**

**West Suffolk Youth Orchestra and String Ensemble**  
**Friday's 5:30-7:15**  
**Level: Grade 4 and above**



**West Suffolk Youth Wind Band**  
**Friday's 5:30-7:15**  
**Level: Grade 4 and above**

Sessions begin on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September/Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September. New members are eligible for two free trial sessions. Primary to further education students up to the age of 21.

For more information contact Lewis Blythe - [lewis.blythe@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:lewis.blythe@suffolk.gov.uk) or visit our website [www.suffolkmusicclub.co.uk](http://www.suffolkmusicclub.co.uk)

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  **ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**Suffolk  
Music Hub** 

 **Suffolk**  
County Council

 **MUSIC  
MARK** MEMBER

**Apply for a primary school place 2023/2024 – the deadline for applications is the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – the window for applying is open now...**

Here is the link to the Suffolk County Council Website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-primary-school-place-20232024/>

Here is the link to the guidance:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/Children-families-and->

*Hello everyone,*

*Please enjoy this little story or poem ☺*

*Miss Jenkins*

# Sunflower

by

GERALDINE McCAUGHREAN

Hal planted the seeds between the house and the shed without much enthusiasm. Everyone had been given three to plant and tend during the summer holiday: there would be a prize for the sunflower that grew tallest.

Hal knew he wouldn't win; Bogsy's would. He had told Hal as much. In fact, Bogsy had threatened everyone: *'I'd better win.'* The prize – a trowel – was not important: Bogsy just liked winning. He was a bully. At the very sight of him, Hal's shoulders would fold forwards, his knees bend; he was like those gorillas in the jungle – the submissive ones who grin and stoop while the big ones bite, screech and hurl baby gorillas from the treetops.

Hal planted the seeds, patted the soil flat.

Just one grew: a little sprig at first, then needing a cane to support it. It grew a flower. Hal said encouraging things, and it *almost* seemed to listen. But it never suggested what Hal could do next term to stave off Bogsy's pushes, punches or sneering insults. Sometimes, some lout passed by the back fence, kicked it, ran a stick along it. Bogsy.

Every day, Hal stood to attention in front of his sunflower: 'Keep growing, Sunny! Stretch up tall - like this, look. Grow till your head hits the sky!'

Weirdly, as Sunny grew more splendid, Hal grew less so. He kept tripping over things - all the time. His back ached, his knees crackled. Reaching for things, he knocked them over. Bogsy was right: he was a muppet, a bozo, a loser. But if Sunny could beat Bogsy's sunflower, *that* would be a kind of triumphant revenge.

Just before term began, Sunny lifted up her face - and stood taller than Hal.

First day of term. New blazer, new trousers, new shoes. Same old Hal inside. He dug up Sunny and potted her. 'Do you think she'll win, Dad?'

'Hope for the best,' said his father doubtfully.

Hal had to carry her to school: she did not fit in the car. He tripped - of course he did, useless muppet that he was. The pot spilt its soil. He walked on; flowerpot in one hand, sunflower in the other. As he knelt in the school garden, wedging Sunny back into her pot, Bogsy came up behind him. 'Where'd you nick that from, loser?'

Hal stood up, palms sweating, heart thumping. Bogsy looked him over, head to foot, and took a step back. Oddly, he seemed to have shrunk.

'Where's yours?' asked Hal.

'Couldn't be bothered.' Bogsy curled his lip - and took another step backwards.

Wobbler came past, wheeling his bike. 'Swipe me, Hal! You've shot up!'

The morning sun cast three boy-shaped shadows at their feet, long and dark ... Hal's was longest.

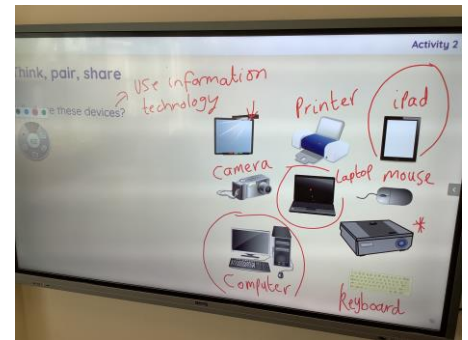
'Grow till your head hits the sky,' whispered Sunny. (Or did Hal imagine that?)

Sunny didn't win: another sunflower stole the prize by a centimetre. But no boy stood taller than Hal.

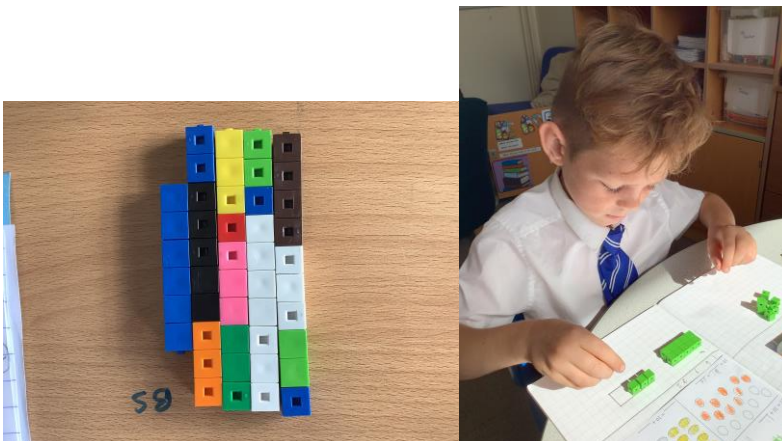
# Rainbow class

A very warm welcome back to Place Farm and to the Rainbow class. It has been so lovely to see all their beautiful faces back in our classroom again (and some new faces). The children have all settled in fantastically well and have coped brilliantly with the changes in their routines. What a driven bunch of pupils!

There are a few changes this year and the children have loved studying and learning in their new lessons. We have moved away from our project work, and focused back on individual subject lessons. So far the children have enjoyed Living things in Science, The Great Fire of London in History and Samba in Music, along with some computing sessions. Today we are delving into our Design and Technology lessons again and looking at patchwork, applique and sewing.



In Maths we are looking at Number and partitioning numbers into tens and ones, and becoming familiar with these, in order to create and solve calculations.



In Writing we have begun a unit which helps us to create strong sentences, thinking about structure, basic skills like full stops and capitals, and gets us to slow down and really focus on what we're writing. The children are doing so well with it!

We also have practiced these skills in handwriting, spelling and Sounds Write work, which we're loving.

In Reading we have been looking at the story of the Goose that laid a golden egg and thinking about greed and foolishness. The children have used inference to understand the story and it's moral deeper.

We are having lots of fun back at School



## Attendance Matters

The Department for Education issued guidance to all schools in August 2022, “*Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood, that it is insufficiently stated - pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school*”.

Our Trust is committed to providing a high-quality education for all the children who attend any Unity Schools Partnership’s schools and settings. By attending school every day and on time, children and young people can take full advantage of the educational and social development opportunities available to them. Here is a link to the Unity Schools Attendance Policy:

<https://placefarm.org.uk/files/resources/draft-attendance-policy-september-2022.pdf>

The whole school community - children, parents and carers, teaching and support staff, school governors and the Board of the Trust - have a responsibility for ensuring good school attendance.

Some key information from the Unity Schools Partnership Policy:

<p><b>Please ensure that children arrive at school on time. School starts at 8.35.</b> Children who arrive after the gates have closed must be signed by parents/carers in at the school reception.</p>	<p>Please notify school on the first day of absence by 9:30am by telephoning the school office, 01440 702836 or emailing <a href="mailto:admin@placefarm.org.uk">admin@placefarm.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Please liaise with the school as soon as possible</b> (by emailing <a href="mailto:admin@placefarm.org.uk">admin@placefarm.org.uk</a> regarding any specific issues that might cause absence or lateness, e.g., a sick parent/carer. Parents/carers of children for whom we do not know the reason for absence will be contacted.</p>	<p>Please ensure that as far as possible, medical appointments are arranged for outside school hours.</p>
<p><b>Children who repeatedly attend school late</b> (30 minutes after the register opens) will be brought to the attention of the Education Welfare Officer. The Education Welfare Officer will undertake unannounced gate checks.</p>	<p>Parents/carers should note that children who arrive late after the register has closed are given a ‘U’ code, which is the equivalent of an <b>unauthorised absence</b>, and this will affect the child’s attendance figures.</p> <p>Fixed penalty notices may be issued to parents/carers whose children persistently arrive after this time.</p>
<p>Regular monitoring is carried out by the <b>Education Welfare Officer</b>. Children who have repeated unauthorised absences, holidays or otherwise, will be contacted by the Education Welfare Officer and may be invited to an attendance meeting to discuss absences and any appropriate support.</p> <p><b>Leave of Absence Request Forms</b> can be found on the Place Farm Primary Academy website. The link below will take you to the attendance page. <a href="http://www.placefarm.org.uk/attendance">www.placefarm.org.uk/attendance</a></p> <p><b>Completed forms should be returned to</b> <a href="mailto:admin@placefarm.org.uk">admin@placefarm.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Parents/carers are expected to take their children on holiday during the school holidays to minimise the impact of missing education. Parents/carers should be aware that it is the policy of <b>all schools in this Trust not to approve term time holidays unless in exceptional circumstances.</b></p> <p>If parents/carers decide to take a holiday, the child’s absences will be marked as <b>unauthorised</b>.</p> <p>A <b>fixed penalty notice fine</b> will be issued if 8 or more unauthorised absence sessions have occurred (4 whole days in total). Wherever possible, we will give a reminder (Letter 1) when unauthorised sessions reach 4 or more (2 whole days in total).</p>

## **Supporting Attendance at Place Farm Primary Academy**

At Place Farm we want to work with you as much as we can to support your child's attendance.  
If you need any support or advice about Attendance, please email [admin@placefarm.org.uk](mailto:admin@placefarm.org.uk)

Here are the staff members that make up the

### **Attendance Team**



Mrs J Sendall  
Headteacher



Mr D Gudgeon  
Attendance Champion  
(Assistant Headteacher)



Mrs A Payne  
Attendance Champion  
(Associate Assistant Headteacher)



Mrs S Bavester  
Attendance - Pupil Support  
(Children & Family Support Manager)



Miss L Moore  
Attendance Administrator



Mrs S Franks  
Attendance Administrator  
(PA to Headteacher)