

Working with Parents

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

Jane D. Hull

Focus child

Here at Place Farm, we follow a Focus child approach: we have six focus children a week (three from each class), for whom we spend time with, in all areas of their play and learning. We collect observations and evidence to support their learning and development.

On the Friday prior to their child's focus week, parents are asked to add 'wow' moments from home to Class Dojo. This can be in photo form or written, and parents are also asked to complete a simple sheet to gather information and their views about their child. Staff then collect evidence and work with the child 'holistically,' to ensure they are progressing and are happy at the start of their school journey. At the end of the week, this information is shared with parents. Class teachers invite parents in to see them after school to discuss their child's learning journey so far; this also includes successes and next steps of learning.

Every child is a focus child each term (Autumn and Spring Term), and in the Summer term a Formal Parents Evening is held in line with the rest of the school.

This approach allows us to build our relationships with parents and we can keep them updated with the areas we are working towards, to support their child.

Class Dojo

This is a communication tool that we ask all parents to register with and download. Class teachers post messages and examples of learning on to the class stories for all to see.

It also allows parents to message the class teacher if needed.

Speaking and Listening

Talking with children and taking time to have meaningful conversations about the world around them are key to developing thinking and vocabulary, and their language and sentence structure.

Supporting your child at home with reading

Parents are the child's number one educator, it is so important that we work together to support each child the best we can.

Expectations Around Reading at Home:

At Place Farm Primary Academy we firmly believe that reading is a vital life skill that is the gateway to life-long learning. It is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social and economic background. Your child will experience the greatest success in reading if school and home work together in partnership. Whilst school will provide your child with the tools and opportunities to develop their reading confidence and enjoyment, you as a parent have the greatest influence in terms of nurturing a love of reading.

Why should I support my child with their reading at home?

The benefits of listening to your child read, and reading aloud to your child are huge:

- Improved vocabulary and language skills
- Prepares your child for academic success
- Develop a special bond with your child
- Increased concentration
- Increased self-esteem and confidence
- Relaxing and reduces stress

'Children are made readers on the laps of their parents' (Emilie Buchwald)

What is expected of me as a parent?

- Encourage and support your child to read their phonics book daily, helping them to use the sounds and strategies they have been taught. This may be the whole book or just a few pages
- Enjoy looking at and reading aloud texts to your child (e.g. their school library books, comics, non-fiction books, poems, rhymes, and songs)
- Use the reading bookmarks sent home to help you support your child's reading
- Comment in your child's planner each time they read to say what they have read and how they did; add your initials
- Ensure your child returns their planner to school each day
- Please ensure that your child takes good care of the books they bring home