

# Newsletter

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018



Dear Parent/Carer,

This has been another busy week at Place Farm. We have said a fond farewell to all of our Year Six pupils; the Year Six Graduation event on Wednesday was emotional and a real celebration of their time at Place Farm! This week, we have also welcomed our new EYFS children - we are very excited to see many siblings and we also welcome some new families. When the summer holidays arrive next week, have a fabulous break.

I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Kind regards

Jane Sendall  
Headteacher

## ATTENDANCE

Whole school attendance 95.4% (+0.1) (Target 96%)

## Calendar

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July - Last day of the academic year

### September

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September - PD Days

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September - First day of term for pupils

### October

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Parents' Evenings

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October - PD Day (School closed to pupils)

### November

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November - Individual photographs for pupils

### December

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Whole School Art Exhibition 3:30 onwards

### MESSAGE FOR STAFF AT PLACE FARM:

"We are having a lovely time with Year 6, they are all so polite and keen, a real testament to all of your hard work, so many cheery hellos, confident learners and lots of kindness :) " Mrs Whitcombe, Headteacher at Castle Manor Academy

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July, Mr Mayes hosted the first ever 'Place Farm Times Tables Rockstars Competition'. Initially twenty four Key Stage Two children were selected to compete in the preliminary rounds, because of their success in the weekly challenges. The competition, in game-show format, started with the contestants being introduced to the enthusiastic audience. They then had to answer as many times tables questions as they could in two minutes. The four top-scoring children battled it out in the Grand Final. After a closely fought final, the winners were Joshua Abimbola and Emily Bonfield – Congratulations to them both!



## Attendance Success!

As we come to the end of the academic year, I would like to thank all of our families for working together to improve attendance. Whole school attendance has risen to 95.4% which is a fantastic achievement!

I will continue to lead on Whole School Attendance in the Autumn Term and hope that, with your support, we can exceed the national figure of 96%.

Wishing you all a lovely, safe and restful summer break.

Mrs Beal



Well done to all the children who took part in our Race for Life. The event was a huge success, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to those who have already brought their sponsor money in. Please can we remind those who haven't that it needs to be in by Monday, with the sponsor form, in a sealed envelope. Thank you for all your support. Miss Beal 😊



## A massive thank you and good-bye to some staff and a huge Place Farm welcome to new ones!

As we come to the end of another academic year, we have to say thank you and good-bye to several teachers, whilst also welcoming five new teachers.

Miss Jarvis is leaving Place Farm, after seven years, to take up a promotion at a school in Cambridgeshire. Mr Mayes is leaving to work in the private sector, and Miss Jolland is leaving to work at another Unity Schools Partnership academy. Mrs Warburton, who covered maternity leave is also leaving us. We wish them well in their future ventures - they will all be missed.

Immense thanks must also go to Mr Cianciola, Miss MacPhail and Mrs Downes for leading teaching in classes this year; I am pleased to say that all three will still be with us next year, covering any absence and also covering during teachers' planning time.

Mrs Seeley, our violin teacher, also retires at the end of this term. She has been teaching in Haverhill schools for many years; her contribution to music teaching at Place Farm will be missed, although she assures me that the new music teacher will be equally as talented!

Miss Pilsworth has begun her maternity leave; we eagerly await the news of her new arrival!

We have some fantastic teachers joining us next year: Mr Bareham, who will be teaching in Year Six; Miss Levey, who will be teaching in Year Two; Mrs Mason, who will be teaching in Year Five; Mr Dyer, who will be teaching in Year One; and Miss McCarty, who will be teaching in Year Four.



## Year Six Graduation!

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, we sadly said goodbye to our cohort of Year Sixes. The children bowed out in style, as they performed a Place Farm version of 'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman film and recited two class poems. The graduation ceremony also consisted of thirteen children receiving awards for their outstanding achievements this year and all of the children were presented with graduation scrolls. We wish the children the best of luck, as they begin their journey at secondary school.

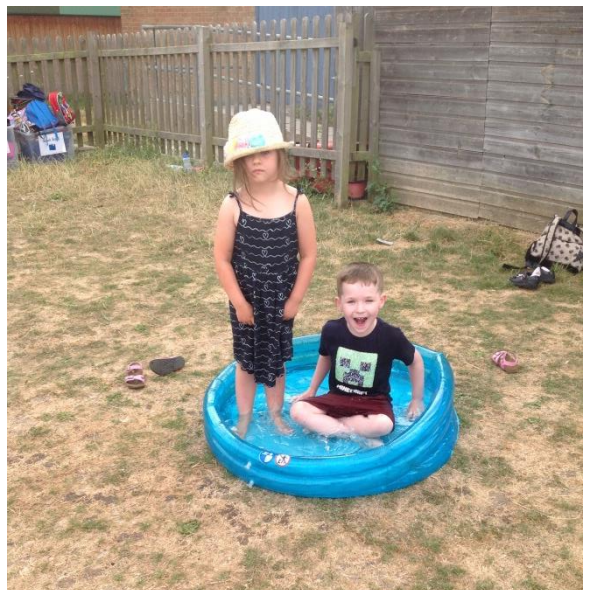


## Foundation - Seaside Share

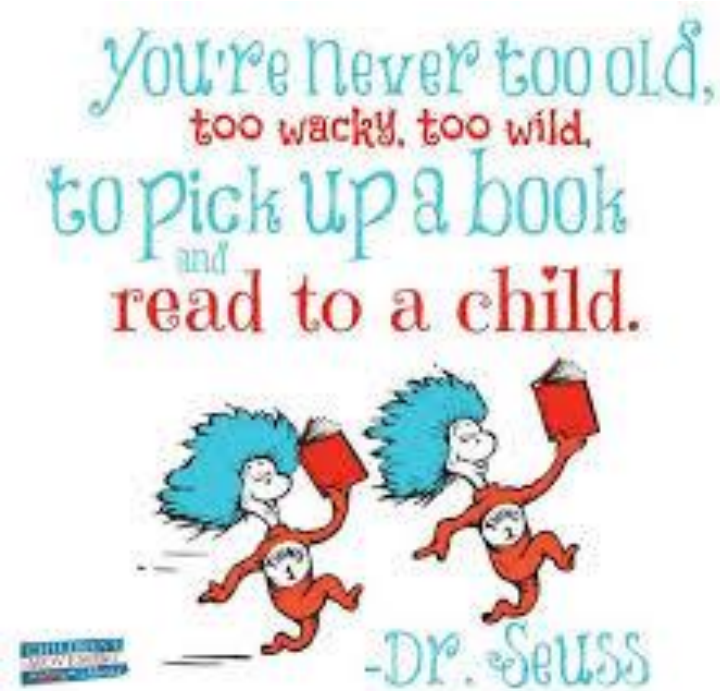
On Thursday afternoon, Foundation children welcomed their parents and carers for their final 'Share Session.' We started in the hall, where we looked back at the children's journey through their first year at Place Farm. We then went on to the field, where the sun was shining, and the children enjoyed many different activities. It was lovely to see so many happy faces, enjoying the paddling pool, playing games and eating delicious ice-creams.

We would like to thank all of the parents for coming along and the children for being such a delight. We really did have a lovely time with you all, and we hope you did too!

The Foundation Team



## Some tips and ideas for reading with your children



I can't quite believe that we are nearing the end of another school year!

The children have come on in leaps and bounds this year with Accelerated Reader, and it is lovely to see their enthusiasm when they tell me how they scored in their quizzes!

With this in mind, I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to post some information about reading with children, as well as some handy tips and ideas for reading over the holidays.

I have been looking at some information on the BBC website and came across some interesting thoughts;

It has been found that reading stories to children can be a 'great way of helping them deal with real life situations that they need help to deal with. Researchers have found that the brain activity that occurs when we read fiction is very similar to experiencing that situation in real life, so reading about a situation helps children work out how to solve it in reality.'

'Scientists have also found that children who have fiction read to them regularly find it easier to understand other people - they show more empathy and have better developed theory of mind (the ability to understand that other people have different thoughts and feelings to us, which is essential for understanding and predicting other people's thoughts and behaviour).'

Some of the children here at Place Farm do struggle when it comes to quizzing. Their ability to read the words is not always the issue, as they may be able to read lots of words, but do they actually understand what they are reading? It is the comprehension of the text and characters that gives them a more rounded knowledge of the book and, in turn, helps them to pass quizzes. It also strengthens the foundations for their learning in other subjects. Whether it is Maths, Science or any other subject, comprehension is paramount in a child's studies and a greater understanding of reading will inevitably reflect in their everyday life.

### Tips and ideas

My children are now in secondary school, and I wish I had been given more guidance on how to help them with their reading when they were younger. It has been found that ‘the benefits of having stories read to children is hugely increased when parents talk and ask questions about the story as well.’

‘Simply asking them if they can remember what happened in the story or checking if they know what some of the more complicated words mean, can really extend their understanding and vocabulary.’

There are three different types of questions worth considering when reading with your children;

- Literal questions - asking facts about the story, for example “What was the pirate’s name?”
- Inference questions - Looking beyond the text “Why did he do that?” or “What do you think happened next?”
- Evaluative questions - Reading behind and beyond the lines. Where children are encouraged to give (and support) their own opinion. That is to evaluate information within the story, based on their own knowledge and experience, for example “Do you think he should have done that?” or “How do you think that makes the other characters feel?”, “Why do you think that?”

The more complex inference/evaluative questions help the children to think about and understand other people’s motivations, rather than just reading the words. This is also an excellent way to encourage their language skills and story comprehension.

As a parent or grown up reading with a child, you are best placed to assess their ability to answer these types of questions. Often, this ability is not related to their age, but rather to their language skills and past experience of reading, sharing and discussing books.

I hope that this has been of some use to you and it provokes some interesting discussions with your child and their books!

Have a lovely summer, and enjoy sharing stories together!

Happy reading!

**Mrs Thompson**

Sources: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) and Dr Sarah McGeown (Lecturer in Developmental Psychology - University of Edinburgh)