

7th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

One Planet Week 2025: Week Commencing 20th January

Each January at Farlingaye, we celebrate our annual 'One Planet Week', during which students explore an environmental idea across different subject areas. Previous topics have included 'Fast Fashion', 'Environmental Eating', 'The path to net zero', 'What COVID has taught us about the environment', and more. This year, the theme is 'Our home – and why it's so special.'

The Earth is a truly remarkable place. It is the only planet of which we know that supports life. An oasis in the wilderness of space. Furthermore, the relative stability that our planet has enjoyed over thousands of millennia has enabled complex consciousness and civilisations to develop. However, this stability is not a given and is not absolute – it is contingent upon crucial planetary boundaries not being breached. Human activities, such as land use change, burning fossil fuels, and pollution threaten such boundaries and with it the civilisations that we and our children recognise today.

Together, we live in a time of unprecedented environmental change and the necessity to act is acute. The numbers, the data, and the evidence tell us this story loud and clear. However, we are emotional, feeling creatures, and so the numbers, the data, and the evidence cannot always be heard. We think first with our hearts, not with our heads, and so it is to the former that environmentalism must continue to speak.

During this year's One Planet Week, we want Farlingaye students to fall in love. To see the Earth again with fresh eyes, to celebrate it, to appreciate its rarity and fragility, and to reconnect with looking after our home. This will involve lesson activities across different subject areas and the opportunity to sign up for extracurricular sessions. More details will be shared with students in assemblies and during registration periods. Please do encourage your son/daughter to get involved and also look to foster their interests outside of school through engaging with the natural world.

Looking beyond One Planet Week, it is always great to make links with Parents/Carers who work or volunteer within the fields of conservation, the environment, and sustainability, so please do drop me an email to build that connection with our school: tharrison@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk

With best wishes,

Dr T Harrison
Green Council Coordinator