

23 April 2018

Dear Parents

Annual Flower Festival 2018 - Flower Arranging Day Friday 11 May 2018

Our annual Flower Festival will take place on Friday 11 May prior to our Open Day on Saturday 12 May.

The theme this year is **Meet the Animals**

To give the children some ideas and techniques with flowers there will be a demonstration in school on Tuesday 1 May. It is hoped that after the demonstration, children will plan their entry at home and bring to school their design ideas, a suitable waterproof container, oasis if needed, some flowers and foliage.

Containers & Props These can be anything that is waterproof and heavy enough to support the arrangement. The more interesting the container the better e.g. a vase, mug, tin, carton, Lego model or basket lined with plastic container or even a simple jam jars painted in bright colours or painted in animal designs. Lighter containers can be weighted down with pebbles. Support for flowers can be oasis bought from florists or Hobby craft. One type of arrangement is called "tapestry", where the flower heads are cut short and put into oasis which has been cut into an animal shape and the flowers placed in a design.

Here are a few ideas that might help prepare:

Animal habitats, such as a bird box, or miniature beehive
Egg shells for chicks
Animal mask, toys, or an animal book
Jungle theme using foliage and herbs from the garden

Please keep the size of your arrangement to less than 25x25 cm. It can be really small!

Artificial flowers and foliage are allowed as long as most of the arrangement is fresh material. You might want to include props in your arrangement such as toy animals or model birds or insects.

Tips for looking after your flowers and foliage.

Cut the end of the stems off your flowers and foliage so they can have a big drink! Stand your flowers and foliage in water for 24 hours before you bring them to school. This is called conditioning.

It is legal to pick wild flowers as long as they are not an endangered plant. But we should never uproot them. Wild flowers do not hold up well in arrangements. It is possible to pick wild foliage so look out for lovely leaves!

Enjoy all your planning and designing ready to make a wonderful contribution to the Festival.

This is a beautiful time of year, look around at what foliage and flowers are growing in gardens and hedgerows and bring them to make a beautiful arrangement that will be part of our wonderful annual Flower Festival, which can be viewed by parents on **Friday 11 May in the afternoon**, and will also be viewed by prospective parents on our Open Day on Saturday 12 May.

Yours sincerely

Helen Groves
Marketing & Communications Manager