

**Part 1: Comprehension****Persuasive****Read the text.**

Dear friends and families,

Please can you spare some time to help us create a nature area?

In our science lessons, we have been developing ideas for this exciting green area. We plan to include a pond, a dipping area, an insect hotel, fruit trees, a bird box, a wild flower meadow, planters and beds in which we can grow our own fruit and vegetables. We are really lucky that there is plenty of space at the bottom of our field.

We're sure you'll agree that engaging with nature is good for children. Many of you tell us that some of your happiest childhood memories involve being outdoors! Unfortunately, many of today's children don't connect with nature very much. Some children spend more time playing on electronic devices indoors than enjoying the outside world! Surely you'd like us to enjoy the outdoors as much as you did?

Being outdoors helps keep children healthy and physically fit. But did you know that nature helps us to do better in our schoolwork? The natural world is a giant learning laboratory and the sights, smells and sounds of nature are great for our natural curiosity and creativity. Growing our own fruit and vegetables means we have to use problem-solving skills, and working together is good teamwork. We're convinced that nature really is important for a healthy, happy life.

Do you have skills in planning, design, gardening, carpentry – or do you just want to lend a helping hand? If so, we'd like to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,

The children of 6th Class



2 December 2019

**A. Tick the correct answers.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. What is the purpose of the letter?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to encourage children to go outdoors</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to tell people about the nature area</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to explain to people what children do in school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to ask for help with the nature area</p> | <p>2. Which of these ideas was NOT developed by the children?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a wild flower meadow</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a dipping area</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a seating area</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> fruit trees</p> |
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**B. Answer the questions.**

1. Why is the school described as 'lucky'?

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2. Why does the letter suggest people remember their own childhoods?

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3. Explain how nature helps children do better in their schoolwork.

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4. Summarise three reasons why the nature area would be good for children.

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5. Which point in the letter do you find the most persuasive? Why?

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a  
b c

## Part 2: Vocabulary

Tick the word nearest in meaning to the underlined word.

1. Clowns typically have red noses.

- unusually  
 normally  
 uncharacteristically  
 occasionally

2. He could barely see in the dense fog.

- grey  
 swirling  
 wispy  
 thick

3. He dug the soil and exposed the plant's roots.

- uncovered  
 protected  
 masked  
 broke

4. The air was oppressive.

- boiling  
 fresh  
 stifling  
 breathable

5. She searched frantically for her keys.

- serenely  
 desperately  
 recklessly  
 calmly

6. Both cars were damaged by the impact.

- weather  
 storm  
 driver  
 collision

7. There was an ominous noise in the distance.

- shrill  
 deafening  
 protected  
 threatening

8. Her dress had an elaborate pattern.

- colourful  
 intricate  
 beautiful  
 simple

**Part 3: Word study and Phonics****A. Choose the correct suffixes to fill the blanks.**

1. She bought her mam a spe\_\_\_\_\_ present. (-cial, -tial)
2. You must keep this confiden\_\_\_\_\_. (-cial, -tial)
3. Try not to be so anx\_\_\_\_\_. (-ous, -ious)
4. She was jeal\_\_\_\_\_ of her sister. (-ous, -ious)
5. I need to take your tempera\_\_\_\_\_. (-sure, -ture)

**B. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is a synonym for 'tasty'. (Bad, Delicious, Toasty)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a homophone of 'hear'. (Near, Here, Were)
3. Teacher tells me to \_\_\_\_\_ the piano every day. (practice, practise)

**Part 4: Grammar**

1. Underline all the verbs and circle all the adverbs in the text.

Yesterday, we were walking slowly through the woods when we heard what sounded like a baby animal crying softly. We hurried quickly towards the pitiful noise and searched everywhere. Eventually, we found a tiny lost kitten, staring at us with wide, frightened eyes. I picked it up gently, cuddled it and carried it home.

2. Write three adjectives from the text above:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Choose appropriate verbs to fill the gaps.

We \_\_\_\_\_ up the hill when we \_\_\_\_\_ Johnny with his skateboard.

He \_\_\_\_\_ at us and \_\_\_\_\_ onto his board. He \_\_\_\_\_

off down the hill. Unfortunately, he \_\_\_\_\_ a bump, \_\_\_\_\_ off and

\_\_\_\_\_ to the bottom of the hill.

