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Friends Art is a scheme whereby school children in the UK present a gift to their counterparts in other parts of the world. Pupils in the UK create a Friends Art Pack (FAP) which will be handed over to pupils, in person by the Friends Art Representative (FAR), in another part of the world.

The scheme is designed to be flexible enough to fit in with the all aspects of the curriculum and encourages staff and pupils to develop long-term friendships with peers in other parts of the world, re-establishing the fun of having a pen-pal. Each FAP will include a letter to a pupil in another country, telling them about their lives (hobbies, interests, hopes, dreams). The Friends Art Rep will act as a very special delivery person, handing the FAPs over to children in person! S/He will also deliver lessons and workshops to children in both countries.

The project can consider, music, history, geography, drama, dance, art and more, but the focal point for the project is the arts. It promises to be an exciting cultural exchange and the chance to make lifelong friends around the world.

Subject to parental permission and schools' policies, the process may be filmed so that the children in the UK can see their peers in other parts of the world opening their FAPs.

The Goals

- To give all children an understanding and appreciation of the world beyond their own doorstep and to establish a curiosity for the world through the arts.
- To gain an understanding of different cultures to see, not only how different they may be, but also to establish how children around the world are very similar as well.
- To inspire children's appreciation of the arts from around the world.
- To start friendships with children in other parts of the world.
- To bring children together!

In early April 2016 Linkwater and Havelock schools will be receiving FAPs from Jon Lawrence, the FAR, giving them the chance to make friends with children in the UK through the arts. Over three days a reciprocal pack will be created and Jon will be taking these back to Norfolk, to Denver and Gayton school pupils.

In September Matua B will visit these schools as they start off their new academic year and perhaps teach them some waiata from Aotearoa. By then also perhaps, pupils will be exchanging further material and communications. This initiative reflects the school's first **Local Curriculum Goal**

Students will have a better understanding of, and be able to make confident and safe use of both our local environment and those further afield and gain some perspective of life beyond Havelock School.