



Farrington Gurney
C of E Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mr D Turull
Head of School: Mr A Dix

Friday 21st July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of the academic year is upon us and we wanted to send out a letter outlining the progress we have made this year and some of the improvements that we are looking forward to next year. We would like to thank all of you and your children for everything you have contributed to Farrington Gurney. Our pupils have - as always - been fantastic in so many ways. They have worked hard, made good progress and provided wonderful contributions to the life of the school. We regularly receive positive feedback from visitors to the school, which this year has included many visitors, prospective parents, our school improvement lead and our new MAT Director of Education.

We have continued to develop our curriculum to match the needs of the pupils, while driving forward on school improvement. We have introduced new schemes of learning in art, DT, music and PE, which have helped us to provide really high quality education for all of our children. We were really pleased with our end of year results across the school, which exceeded national averages in nearly all areas. We saw significant improvements from last year in EYFS and Year 2, as well as obtaining the highest combined score for reading, writing and maths in Year 6 across all of our Trust schools. We have continued to focus on our foundation subjects - including history, geography and RE - to ensure they are at the same high levels as English and maths. While doing this, we have also maintained our very strong PE offer, achieving Gold in the School Games Mark award. We have continued our commitment to outdoor learning with forest school sessions and a wealth of school trips during the year, including a very successful whole school trip to Wales. For such a small school and small staff team, our extracurricular offer remains strong with a wide variety of clubs to supplement our wraparound care.

We have ensured we offer various initiatives to support our children, including wellness days throughout the year, always putting our SMSC agenda of developing the children Socially, Morally, Spiritually and Culturally at the heart of all we do. The wellness days in particular have always proved to be very popular with children, parents and staff, giving the classes time to come off the timetable for the day and explore different ideas and activities. We have also started providing some lunchtime activities in The Lodge for children who may struggle in the playground or over on the field for a variety of reasons. We are staffing The Lodge this September so that all children are able to access this provision if they feel they need it.

Looking ahead to next year we are very excited with the many changes that are taking place. Our new EYFS/Year 1 class is already taking shape and over the summer this will be completed, along with a new fixed canopy to help ensure children have access to outdoors in any weather. The recent building works at the other end of the infant building has already made the current Reception class larger, ready for our Year 2 children. Over the summer we



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are expecting a new roof to be built on top of the Key Stage 2 toilets and LED lighting to be installed throughout the school, courtesy of the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership.

The staff and Governors, along with input from parents and pupils, have been working hard on the school vision. This has been an important and lengthy piece of work which is now reaching its conclusion. This will be launched to the school community in September. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed towards this.

The picture both locally and nationally is that behaviour is changing in mainstream primary schools. At Farrington, we are finding there are more children presenting with an increasing array of additional needs. To address this we have been both taking advantage of the Trust behaviour support team and by signposting more families to the wider services they need. We have also invested in an additional member of staff to help support children with both their academic, emotional and social development. As a result of these issues, we are aware that the high standards of behaviour we are known for at Farrington Gurney are being challenged and stretched at the moment - and we need to do more to improve in this area. While for individual children there are often reasons for challenging behaviour beyond the school's control, we nonetheless need to strive for an environment where all children are able to learn free from disruption. In September, we will be relaunching our behaviour policy and systems to include more emphasis on positive reinforcement for those children who follow the school rules, while acting quicker with those children who choose, even with additional support in place, to not follow these. Details will be shared following our September INSET Day when this will be finalised, but will entail, at its core, parents being engaged at a much earlier stage so we can work together to improve children's behaviour and outcomes and limit the wider impact on staff and fellow learners.

Looking back through our social media accounts for this academic year, it is clear to see we are a school who puts your children first and offers many varied and exciting opportunities for them during these important formative years.

To conclude, we would like to express our gratitude to all our staff and to you and your children for a successful and fulfilling year in school. We wish you an enjoyable and restful summer and look forward to you returning in September.

Mr Turull

Mr Dix



**Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership**