

Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

Fulfilment, Forgiveness, Foundation

Newsletter 1 – September 10th 2021



We would all like to extend a very warm welcome back to our children and families at the beginning of the new school year. We hope you managed to have an enjoyable summer break and found some time to relax and enjoy the sunshine. The staff have been very impressed with the attitude and behaviour of the children during their first week back at school; they have come back ready to learn with enthusiasm and interest. We have all enjoyed meeting our new starters as well, both in Reception and further up the school.

For those of you who are new to school, we send out a weekly newsletter every Friday by email. This includes important notices from the school office, gives you diary dates, as well as providing other relevant news and information. This newsletter is one of the main ways in which we will communicate with you, so please read it each week so that you are updated with what is going on at school. If you do ever have any queries you can always contact us by phone or email. The newsletter will be added to the school website each Friday.

Starting next week, there is the opportunity for you to come into class at the end of school each Wednesday for 15 minutes, to have a look at your child's work. There will be a member of staff in class who can talk to you if you have any questions. This has proved popular with many parents in the past to be able to see some of their children's learning.

We are starting the year settling the children back into relatively normal school life. This means the majority of the week at school will be back to how it was a couple of years ago. All teachers have sent out class newsletters and have uploaded curriculum planning grids onto the school website which show what will be taught during this year. With the new model of class structure (lead teachers in each class), the children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) will be having all of their afternoon lessons in their separate classes instead of the split we had before Covid. We have set up the new class email addresses with the class numbers (e.g. c1@farringtongurneyschool.co.uk) if you have any queries, which I know many of you are using already. One of the members of staff in that class will then get back to you as soon as possible, which will usually be within working hours. We will be continuing to offer our varied curriculum with EcoWild, football coaching, dance lessons and swimming all starting in the first few weeks of term. We also have all of our after-school clubs starting next week.

Following on from our parent questionnaires at the end of last term, Mr Dix and I spent some time reading through them all and looking at improvements we can make. We have already emailed out about children being able to bring in sugar-free squash as an alternative to water and will let you know of other ideas and decisions in the next few weeks.

We are all looking forward to working with you again this year; please do not hesitate in contacting Mr Dix or me if you have any comments or questions about our school as we are always interested to hear the views of parents, carers and children. We all want to continue building on the foundations that make our school a friendly, family atmosphere in which our children flourish.

I look forward to seeing some of you at our first whole school Friday assembly next week at the Memorial Hall.

Mr Turull



It has been really enjoyable seeing all the children returning so enthusiastically after the summer break. September is always a time of great excitement in schools; returning back to see old friends and the excitement of 'moving up' a year group or getting a new teacher. I'm sure now that we are past the 'bubble' stage of the pandemic, parents are as excited as the staff in getting back to near normality. Let's hope 2021-22 is a fruitful year for us all.

New Reward System

There are always areas to improve within any school, and this year one of the areas we are looking to develop is our children's understanding of the ways they themselves learn. There is much evidence that children who have good learning behaviours, and are aware of what makes a good learner, make better social and academic progress, so this is an area we will be focusing on this year.

This focus on 'learning how we learn' will be supported by a revamp of our reward system. We have created some learning characters - **the Farrington ACE Learners** - Agile Ashley, Compassionate Courtney and Engaged Eddie, who epitomise good learning behaviours. These characters are displayed in every class and will be referred to during lessons. As the children demonstrate these behaviours they will be rewarded in our Celebration Assemblies with certificates acknowledging their efforts. There will also be 'Headteacher's Award' badges for exceptional achievement or commitment to learning or improving the life of the school. These will be Olympic style bronze, silver and gold badges that the children can aspire towards during their journey through the school.

Mr Dix

<p>We are Farrington</p>  <p>ACE learners</p>	 <p>Agile</p>	 <p>Compassionate</p>	 <p>Engaged</p>
	Agile Ashley	Compassionate Courtney	Engaged Eddie
	We don't give up!	We care about others!	We are interested!
	<p>Agile Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoy taking on any challenges Are OK if they get things wrong Continually seek out harder challenge 	<p>Compassionate Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look after fellow learners Share what they know with others Never boast about what they know 	<p>Engaged Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask good questions to aid their understanding Find out more in their own time Take pride in their work





Notices

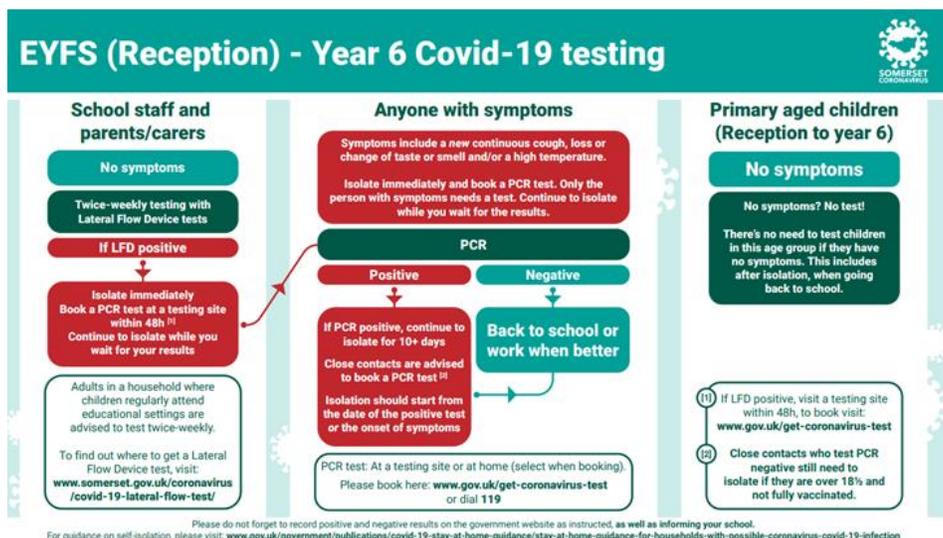
- **BANES Community Well-being Hub** - have sent some helpful family fliers which are attached to this email.
- **Clubs Term 1 & 2** - The Club Allocation List was sent out yesterday. Clubs start next week. Ms Mason has asked if those attending her Games club could bring a named game from home.
- **Data Collection Forms** - details of the information held for your children have been sent home this week for you (on pink paper). Please check, update if necessary and sign/date then return to your class teacher. Any amendments required will be made to ensure we have all the correct details.
- **Dinner Menu** - a big thank you to everyone for completing their child's dinner choices via ParentPay in time for this term. The deadline for those who do not book termly is Thursday for the following week. Reception Class have now received a ParentPay activation letter which will allow you to book dinners and breakfast club. Should you need any help please contact the office.
- **EcoWild** - it will be the turn of Class 1 to enjoy EcoWild next term from Wednesday 22nd September. Consent letters have been sent home - for those who have not yet, please return signed/dated to class.
- **Lost Property** - please contact the office if any child/parent lost a gold earring at the end of last term.
- **Medication** - please ensure your class teacher or the office is given all medication directly. Medication can only be administered in school when the medication form is completed ([medication form](#)) and sent to school clearly labelled. Medication will only be administered which has been prescribed by a Doctor unless agreed with the office. Please ensure inhalers which are in school are in date.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service Link can be found here ([Church Service Link](#)).
- **Wellies** - another thanks to parents who sent named wellies to school. For those who have not yet - ALL children need a **clearly** named pair of wellies in school.

Diary Dates

September

Mon 13th	Reception in until 1:15pm all week After school clubs start this week
Tues 14th	Class 2 Swimming
Fri 17th	Tea & Cake for Parent/Carers 12.30-1.15pm organised by "Friends" in the Memorial Hall

Covid PCR Testing Update for Primary Schools (Staff , Parents & Pupils)





Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

Well, it's a new school year and the start of something new for everyone. At the same time as this, I was sadly reminded this week that the nights are drawing in. We hoped to meet with some friends one evening this week in the garden. Within half an hour of them turning up, it was getting quite dark, so much so that we had to bring out a camping light so we could see each other! It was a clear night, so it was fantastic to be able to see so many stars (and hear some gorgeous church bells ringing in the background – quite idyllic!).

It amazes me sometimes how much difference light makes. If you are in darkness, you only need a small torch, a candle flame or even the screen of a phone to make a huge difference to the whole room. Light is often associated with hope and happiness. However difficult night-time is, it is a joy to see the sunlight in the morning (although you may feel quite rough if you haven't slept well).

It reminds me of our school vision. I will be sharing this with the children in this Friday's assembly, so remember to ask them what I talked about at the end of the day (unless your child is in Class 1).

Our Vision is all about John the Baptist and how he prepared the way for Jesus as he started his ministry. Like John, our school's vision is to prepare the way for all the children who come through our doors, so that they will find **fulfilment** for themselves and others and to flourish as they learn to forgive and to seek **forgiveness**. As a school, we also want to build upon the firm **foundation** of Jesus' teachings so that the children have a base on which to build all their learning experiences upon. In the Bible we are reminded that John knew that he wasn't the light, but that he came to tell about the light – Jesus (see John 1:8)

In our verse for this week, I have chosen a verse where Jesus actually states that like him, we can be a light in the world. Although like John we aren't 'the light' in the same way that Jesus is, Jesus does refer to us as the 'light of the world'

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

I'm glad to know that Jesus was happy to refer to us in this way. That instead of hiding ourselves away from the world, like putting a torch in a drawer or boxing up fairy lights in the loft, we can bring hope and joy to others around us.

I hope this week, that you will find ways to let your light shine.

