



Everyone at Farrington Gurney would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all our children and families at the beginning of this school year. We hope you managed to have an enjoyable summer break. The staff have all been very impressed with the attitude and behaviour of the children during their two days at school this week after what for some children has been a very long time away. They have come back ready to learn with enthusiasm and interest. Next week our new Reception children will be joining us every morning and we are all looking forward to meeting them.

For families who are new to the school, we send out a weekly newsletter every Friday. It includes important notices from the school office, informs you about the Friends of Farrington Gurney (our PTA), diary dates, as well as other relevant news and information. This newsletter is the main way we communicate with you, so please read it every week so that you continue to be 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.

There are of course many changes at the moment, but we have tried to keep everything as simple and similar as possible for the children. Thank you for your patience with drop off and pick up which I know has been an issue in many schools, so far it seems to have gone quite smoothly here. We need to get all the children across the road so if you are one of the first picking up by car, it would be very helpful if you could either drive towards the A37 to avoid driving past the school, or wait for a few minutes until all the children have crossed, although we understand this isn't always possible.

I would like to formally welcome Mr Andrew Dix to the school, in his role as both Class 4 teacher and Head of School. He will be teaching for the majority of the week, but will also have time in the office working alongside me on leadership tasks as well as running the school on the days I am working at Leigh on Mendip. This is a role which is familiar to Mr Dix as he has previously worked as Head of School at Dundry Primary. We are looking at ways for you to all to get to meet him soon.

We are starting the year settling the children back into school life, assessing the gaps in learning and then delivering lessons in all subjects to plug these gaps and to move their learning forward. All class teachers are sending home class newsletters and we will also share with you the curriculum planning grids which show what will be taught during this year. Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) are back to having their afternoon lessons in their separate classes after two years of being split, while Reception and Key Stage 1 have a specific afternoon timetable designed for Term 1 to ensure both curriculum progression and learning support. As before all class teachers can be contacted on their work email addresses if you have any queries (initial then surname e.g. hmason@farringtongurneyschool.co.uk) and they will aim to 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 and dance lessons all starting in the next couple of weeks. Unfortunately we aren't able to start swimming lessons yet but aim to do this in January.

I look forward to working with all of 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. I want us all – staff, Governors, families and of course, children - to continue to build on the improvements we saw last year including the very positive Ofsted inspection and report as well as our friendly, family atmosphere which helps our children flourish.



Notices

- **Asthma** – if your child uses an inhaler then please ensure that there is one available for them in school at all times. Please also check the date as some of the ones in class before the summer break had expired.
- **Breakfast Club** – The club is currently very low on numbers and we will do everything to avoid having to closing it. If you need to use the breakfast club on a regular or ad-hoc basis please reserve a place on ParentPay.
- **Clubs** – we are sending out the clubs letter today. We will send out the allocation list towards the end of next week. All clubs start on the week beginning Monday 14th September, except for football which begins next Friday. Any club cancellations will be notified through the school newsletter in advance or if we are unable to run a club on the day, for instance through illness, we will call/email you to let you know. We have a smaller selection of clubs this term given the circumstances but will aim to increase this in Term 2 if possible.
- **EcoWild** – sessions will be starting for children in Year 1 on Wednesday 9th September. Please look out for the consent letter which will be coming home via email today.
- **KS1 Free Fruit** – We are pleased to let you know that free fruit for KS1 will be available from Tuesday. If you would like to send your child with some fruit as a snack for break time on Monday, please do.
- **KS1 & FSM Dinners Term 1**– thank you if you have booked your meals for the whole term as this is really helpful to the office. For those booking on a weekly basis please remember the cut-off to do this is midnight Thursday the week before. If there is any absence the office will automatically cancel that day's meal, thereafter any occasional ad-hoc changes can be made through by email to our school office.
- **Office Enquiries** – due to the Covid restrictions please direct all enquiries by e-mail (office@farringtongurneyschool.co.uk) or telephone (01761 452419) to the office. We hope you will understand that at this time we are avoiding face to face enquiries.
- **School Photos** – Nigel Coles will be in school on the afternoon of Wednesday 23rd September to take the children's individual and sibling photos. We are able to offer parents who also have pre-school siblings a joint photo after school in the Memorial Hall. If you would like to make use of this opportunity, please wait at the Memorial Hall entrance from 3:15pm ensuring your remain at 1 metre distance with your children whilst you queue and you will be called through by the photographers. There will be plenty of hand sanitiser available. This will also apply for siblings within the school, who will already have had their individual photos taken during the school day. Proofs/orders will be sent home shortly after.
- **Wellies** – if you have not done so already, please ensure the children have a pair of wellies to keep in school on the racks.
- **Walking home** – Years 5 and 6. Can we please ask parents of children who walk home, to email Mr Dix (adix@farringtongurneyschool.co.uk) to authorise this and to confirm which days.

School Diary Dates

September 2020

- Wed 9th** EcoWild starts for Year 1 (please see letter emailed today)
- Fri 11th** Football lessons start (Class 2 and 3 – PE kits must be in school)
After-school football club starts
- Mon 14th** All other after-school clubs begin
- Wed 16th** EcoWild sessions start for Reception **and** Year 1 (weekly for the rest of Term 1)
- Fri 18th** Coffee and Cakes for new Reception parents (everyone welcome!) – Memorial Hall 9:00am – 10:00am organised by the Friends of Farrington Gurney School
- Wed 23rd** Individual Photos – see details above – individuals in school, siblings after school
- Fri 25th** KS2 Run for Reading fundraiser – details to follow
- Tue 29th** Local Governing Body meeting