

# Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

*A place where all can flourish, find fulfilment and experience life in all its fullness*

**Newsletter 1 - September 5th 2025**



## **Welcome Back**

Welcome back to everyone across our school community. We are really pleased to see all the children back in school and also to welcome our new Reception pupils who have started in Turtle Class this week. We would also like to welcome to our staff team Mrs Laura Payne, who will be working as a teaching assistant in Shark and Turtle Classes. It has been a very positive and vibrant start to the new school year and we are all very enthusiastic about what the year ahead holds for our pupils.

## **Meet the Teacher**

You are very welcome to come and join us on Wednesday 10th September from 3:15pm-3:30pm to meet your child's teacher and find out about how the class is expecting to run over the course of the year. You can bring your own questions along as well. For parents with children in more than one class, the teachers will be available until 4:00pm to catch up with you in their classrooms. Children will need to stay with you as there will be no-one to supervise them outside and Superstars will be taking place on the playground.

## **Attendance**

A year ago, we launched a real drive to improve attendance both in our school and across the Trust. We set ourselves an aspirational target of 97% at Farrington Gurney and we almost achieved it, finishing the year at 96.8%. You may have seen attendance as a focus again in the news over the last few days and although we understand the financial pressures on parents and appreciate that holidays are often cheaper in term time, we would encourage all parents to refrain from booking holidays while their children are in school.

## **School Open Mornings**

Although we have only just started this academic year, we are already looking ahead to the next one and have two Open Mornings planned for prospective parents. These will be taking place on Tuesday 14th October and Thursday 13th November. We will advertise these in local nurseries/preschools as well around the area in various shops and community spaces, but please do let anyone know who has a child starting school in September 2026.

## **Mrs Geeson and Mr Turull**

### **Nut Allergies and Snacks**

Please can we ask that you help us to continue to be a nut-aware school as we do have children with an allergy to nuts.

We request that there are no nut products put in lunch boxes or brought into school. This includes, for example, peanut butter sandwiches, chocolate spreads, some cereal/granola bars, cakes containing nuts, biscuits/cookies that contain nuts etc. This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging closely to help keep our children safe.

As a reminder for children in Key Stage 2 who bring in a morning snack, this should be a piece of fruit where possible, a cereal bar or similar. For children who have packed lunches at school, guidance on providing a healthy, balanced packed lunch can be found [here](#). Please note that we also continue to be a sweet-free school.

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## Notices

- **Arbor** - 79% of Parents have logged into Arbor which is where your child's details are recorded and will be the software we use to send future emails. We re-sent at 12:11 Thursday 4th September the activation details to those parents who have not yet created an account. Please check your email inbox (or SPAM). Thank you to those who have set this up.
- **Arbor for those with children in 2 different schools** - If you are having problems logging into the Arbor portal due to your children being at different schools. Please see [here](#) the link to the guidelines on how to overcome this issue.
- **Clubs** - All clubs start back next week and the allocation list can be found by clicking [here](#).
- **Dinners** - Please remember the cut off for dinner bookings is Thursday midnight for the following week or alternatively please send your child/ren with a pack lunch. Those with children who joined reception can now book their meals and those who moved from year 2 to 3 can now pay for those booked in the holiday.
- **Dolphin Trip** - Is next Wednesday 10th. Thank you to those who have paid/consented. If you have not done so please can you action this over the weekend.
- **Flu Nasal Spray Immunisation** - Please consent yes or no via the email sent home on Wednesday.
- **Music Lessons** - Music for Schools will be teaching music lessons to those who have signed up from Thursday 18th. WEMA Keyboard lessons start on Friday 19th and both are in the reading lodge.
- **School Photos** - Nigel Coles will be in school on Monday 29th 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 (if you would like to do this, arrive at 8.10am at the school gate and make your way to the rear entrance to Shark Class). If your class has PE that day, the children should arrive in uniform and bring PE Kit to change into after the photos.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Swimming** - it is Dolphin Class swimming this term. This is a final call for those who have not yet consented or paid. Please do this via ParentPay as soon as possible. Thank you to all those who have.
- **Year 4 Mendip Activity Centre Residential Trip 2026** - To secure a place please consent/pay the deposit on ParentPay by 5th September. Communication was sent in the penultimate week of last term.

## Diary Dates

### September

Mon 8th	New reception intake start at 8:40am and finish at 12:45pm After School Clubs start
Tue 9th	Dolphin Class to swim (please consent/pay via ParentPay)
Wed 10th	Dolphin Class Evacuee Day at East Somerset Railway (please consent/pay via ParentPay) Meet the teacher (3:15pm)
Fri 12th	Celebration Assembly (9:00am in the Memorial Hall)
Mon 15th	New reception intake attend full time
Fri 26th	Celebration Assembly (9:00am in the Memorial Hall)
Mon 29th	Individual Photos with Nigel Coles AM Flu Nasal Immunisations with School Nurse Team PM

### October

Fri 10th	Harvest Festival (9:00am - 10:00am at St John's Church)
Tue 14th	School Open Morning (9:30-11:30am)
Fri 17th	Celebration Assembly (9:00am in the Memorial Hall)
Thu 23rd	Term 1 ends for pupils
Fri 24th	INSET Day

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## Community News

As residents of Farrington Gurney will know, there is a community workshop on 28 September, to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan. We have representatives from most parts of the village but still need volunteers from these areas:

**Farrington Way**

**The Crescent**

**Meadow Close**

**Chapel Close**

**Pitway Lane**

If you live in any of these and can join the meeting from 2:00pm - 5:00pm, it will mean that there is better representation for the village as a whole.

Any questions, please contact Paul Radnedge [[paul@farringtongurneyparish.gov.uk](mailto:paul@farringtongurneyparish.gov.uk)]

## **Parents / Carer Invitation from Unique Voice**

You are warmly invited to an online event introducing *Safer Together*, a new film and conversation resource created by young people in Bristol, designed to help families and communities talk about the realities and risks of knife crime, and how to move from these concerns towards hope and change.

About *Safer Together*:

In the wake of devastating losses in our local community and across the country, young people have come together through creativity and film to share their feelings, fears and hopes. The *Safer Together* film is a powerful piece created by and for young people, aiming to open up honest, informed conversations at home and in the community.

### **Session details:**

 **Tuesday 14th October**  **Online 12.30-13.15**  **Open to parents, carers & guardians of young people**

This supportive and informative session will:

- Introduce the film and accompanying conversation resource
- Offer ideas for how to speak with your child about knife crime in a trauma-informed way
- Signpost helpful organisations such as Crimestoppers and Fearless

If you would like to attend you can register for your space [HERE](#). Any questions you may have about the event please feel free to contact me at [jenni@uniquevoice.org](mailto:jenni@uniquevoice.org).

## **MIDSOMER NORTON DRAMA CLUB**

**Mondays @ Midsomer Norton Methodist Church, BA3 2DR**

Fun • Games • Teamwork • Creative Skills  
Show Making • Confidence Building • New Friends

### **Ages**

**6 - 13 Year olds**

### **Times**

**4:15pm - 5:15pm &  
5:15pm - 6:15pm**

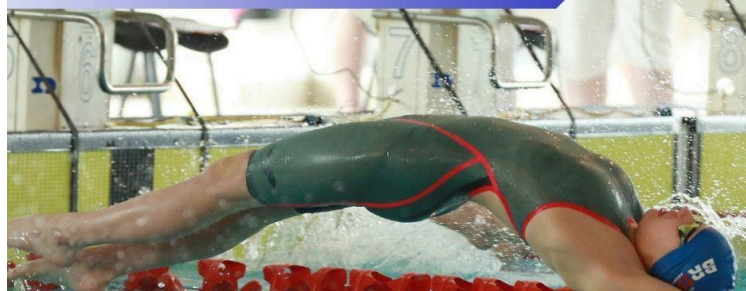
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## **CITY OF BRISTOL ACADEMY SQUAD TRIALS**



With the best facilities Bristol has to offer, a 50 Metre pool and Level 1, 2 & 3 Coaches, City of Bristol SC offer pathways for all from Academy (entry) level through to National/International Performance. We are currently looking for swimmers aged 7 and over who want to explore and take part in competition swimming and would love to hear from you!

Open to swimmers who have completed to Stage 5 & above of swimming lessons

Based at Hengrove Pool

For more information or to book a trial, please contact  
[cobaquatics.enquiry@gmail.com](mailto:cobaquatics.enquiry@gmail.com)

**TAKING SWIMMING TO THE NEXT LEVEL**





***"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6 - NIV)***

So the summer is over and we're all back to school. If you've been doing this even as half as long as I have, you can sometimes feel a bit flat at this point in the year; like you're going through the motions. "Do their shoes still fit?" "Where did their lunchbox end up?" "How do I pay for things now?"

Even though it is a new start - a new year, a new teacher, maybe even a new school - there are still lots of routines that have to start up again that we probably haven't been missing.

Coupled with this, the summer has come to an end. I'm not sure about you, but there have been signs of Autumn for a week or so now and this last weekend, I really noticed the evenings beginning to creep in again. Wait until the clocks go back and it's dark at half past four!

There has also been some troubling things happening nationwide as well. Although not as disturbing as the riots last summer, it has left many of us feeling upset and worried. Whatever your views, it can be very disturbing to see people reverting to violence.

Today's verses were written by King Solomon, who ruled Israel about 2900 years ago. He wrote a lot of The Book of Proverbs, which contains hundreds of wise sayings (although it is believed that Solomon wrote about 3,000 proverbs in total).

To help people remember parts from the Bible, different musical artists create songs that include the words from the verses. I remember hearing a song based on these verses during the 1990s and it became a bit of an [earworm](#). Although I found it quite annoying at the time, it has meant that these verses have remained with me for about 30 years now and they have been a source of comfort during difficult times.

There is so much happening in the world today that we probably don't understand and can't explain, but these verses remind us not to rely on ourselves and what we know. It tells us that we just need to trust God and to follow him in everything we do. This isn't easy, but the good thing is that if we do make a mistake, we can say sorry and start again.

So, even with all the annoying routines, the darker evenings and distressing world events, I hope this term starts well for you. And if you haven't considered these verses before, maybe now's the time to start. Trusting in ourselves rarely works. We often need the support of others to get us through difficult times. Why not ask God for this support?

Mr Marvin

