

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 6th 2024



Welcome Back!

We are so pleased to see everyone back in school this week and to welcome many new pupils, and also some new members of staff. As well as our new Reception children, we have also welcomed Scarlett and George into Key Stage 2. Mrs Telling has also started with us as a member of our teaching assistant team; she will mainly be based in Dolphin Class. The children have told us all about their summer break and have settled back down to learning really well.

A lot of work has been taking place during the summer holidays, with the Key Stage 2 classrooms and toilets having been refurbished and redecorated, as well as the office areas and staff room. We also have new toilets in the infant block, all of which has made our school look a lot better.

We will continue to utilise the field as much as possible at lunchtimes to give our children the opportunity to play together in a large space. As the weather is so changeable, please could you ensure that your child has a pair of named Wellington boots and a coat in school every day. Wellies can be safely stored outside the classrooms.

Parent Survey Outcomes

We are pleased to share with you our parent survey. Many thanks to the parents who filled these in. Having collated the results, we have identified a number of areas to work on during the year.

For one of his final tasks before leaving, Mr Dix put all of these results together, along with comments on how the school is addressing concerns. The document he produced can be found [here](#).

Meet the Teacher

Please join us on Wednesday 11th September from 3:15pm-3:30pm to meet your child's teacher and find out about any new routines and how the class is expecting to run over the course of the year. You are very welcome to 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 if you were elsewhere in school during their session. 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

You may have read that there is a national and Trust drive to improve attendance in schools this year. We are very pleased that we remained above 96% last year, one of the top schools within our Trust. This year the aim for all schools is to reach 97%. There are a few changes coming into place nationally including a rise in the fines for parents who take their children out of school, potentially leading to criminal prosecution over the course of three years. As a result, we are unable to authorise any holidays in term time and please ask that you avoid booking time away when your child should be in school. You will see more about this in the weeks to come and we are sure that once again, Farrington Gurney will be at the top of the attendance figures for this year.

Thank you...

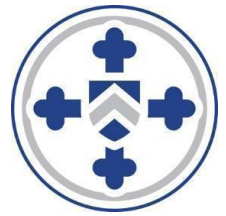
...from Mrs Geeson. I have had such a warm welcome from children, staff and parents and have thoroughly enjoyed my first week at Farrington Gurney. I look forward to getting to know everyone better as we continue to grow and learn together over the coming year.

Mrs Geeson and Mr Turull

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Notices

- **Breakfast Club** - There is plenty of availability at Breakfast Club should you need wraparound care for your children. The start time is now 7.30am at no extra cost to you. Please book via ParentPay.
- **Clubs** - please see [here](#) the link for the clubs allocation list. Unfortunately due to minimal numbers Football for Years 1 & 2 (term 1) and Reception, Year 1 & 2 (term 2) will need to be cancelled on a Wednesday unless more children sign up. If your child would like to be included please sign up over the weekend using the following [link](#).
- **Dinners** - we are aware of some oddities relating to the booking & payment of dinners. We have been advised that behind the scenes this is being worked on for several schools and hope this will have been resolved by next week (if not already). In the meantime, if you have not checked the meals you booked on Thursday, as per our email; please could you to ensure it is as you expect.
- **Farrington Forum** - It's time to elect pupils to join the Farrington Forum for the year. Next week will be a chance for the children to put their names forward and we will announce the new Forum on Friday.
- **Reception Year - Message from the School Nurses Team.** Please complete the New Entrant Digital Health Questionnaire, please do so by clicking [here](#) asap. Thank you.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.

Diary Dates

September

Fri 13th	Celebration Assembly (9:00am in the Memorial Hall)
Thu 26th	Individual School Photos (all year groups)
Fri 27th	Celebration Assembly (9:00am in the Memorial Hall)

October

Fri 11th	Harvest Festival at St John's Church (9:15am)
Thu 24th	Last day of Term 1
Fri 25th	INSET Day

Friends of Farrington Gurney School

The Friends would like to welcome you all back to the new school year! Hello to all the new parents joining us, we look forward to meeting lots of you soon.

Friends are our school's PTA equivalent, and we will be having our first meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 25th September at the Farrington Inn. It would be lovely to see some new faces. We will be looking at lots of exciting plans for the coming year, any ideas or suggestions are always very welcome.

We are also still looking for a new chair role with effect from the end of October (our AGM in October will confirm / select new roles). Please get in touch via the email address below if interested.

If you can, please join our "Friends of Farrington Gurney School" Facebook group as this is where we will update on lots of things, including events coming up. In addition, some staff members are in this group and provide reminders etc when necessary.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please email fofgs@hotmail.co.uk

*****Mr Marvin's Thought for the Week will return next week*****