Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter 10 - November 13th 2026

Remembrance Reflection



On Wednesday, we marked Armistice Day with a whole school reflection in the hall. We shared songs, a poem and prayers as well as the two minute silence. We also updated our poppy wreath collage with new poppies made by children who have joined the school in the last two years. You can see this displayed in our entrance foyer. Here is a little more about what Turtle Class have been up to as part of Remembrance:



'Turtle Class have really enjoyed watching the CBeebies animation for Remembrance this week, if you haven't seen it you can find it here. We have created poppies in all sorts of ways, with construction, craft and paint! One of our Dolphin buddies said that they were very proud of Turtle Class during our Remembrance Service on Wednesday and commented on how sensible they were!'

Bath Taps into Science

Dolphin Class thoroughly made the most of the science learning and experiences on offer at Bath Taps into Science at BRLSI in Bath this morning, and we received some very positive feedback from the scientists running the stalls about our children's manners and behaviour. This engaging and interactive science fair is also open all day tomorrow for families and is completely free with no booking required. We would highly recommend you go along if you have time. Please visit their website for more information https://www.brlsi.org/bathtaps/.

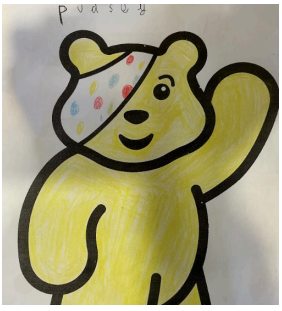






Children in Need

Well done to Farrington Forum for arranging our fundraising activities today. We have had great fun (and delicious cake!) whilst raising money for this worthwhile charity. Congratulations to Roman (Y1) and Evie (Y3) who won the Colouring Competition and to everyone who entered - it was a really tough decision for Farrington Forum this year. Also a big well done to all our runners, some of whom managed ten laps of the field this afternoon! Thank you very much to everyone for all your generous donations and the cakes that you sent in. We will let you know our total raised once the money has been counted.












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Interfaith Day



On Thursday our Key Stage 2 classes marked National Interfaith Day by joining a series of online workshops that introduced them to people from different faiths and worldviews. The theme of the day was considering how we 'Find our Way' and we were really impressed with the ideas and thoughts that the children shared about what helps us to keep going even when life is tough. The book that was used to introduce the theme was called 'The Magnificent Thing', and an online version of the book can be viewed here if you would like to share it with your child and hear their thoughts.

Pupil Conference - Wednesday 18th November

Hearing directly from our pupils about what is important to them and how we can make their school experience even more valuable is at the heart of what we aim for. Next Wednesday afternoon, we are excited to host our very first 'Pupil Conference' to gather their ideas. Working in their Houses, the children will collaborate to answer questions set by different teams across the school. Afterwards, staff will review all of their feedback, agree on next steps, and share our action plan with both pupils and parents—keeping everyone updated as we put their ideas into practice. To help your child prepare, we've included the conference questions below. Please take a few minutes to chat through them together at home to help them feel ready to share their thoughts.

School Team	Question
Farrington Forum	*What would you like to be rewarded for in school and what would you like the rewards to be?*
Teaching Staff	*What special memories do you feel grateful for from your time at school so far?*
Mrs Geeson and Mr Snell	*What helps you to learn well at Farrington Gurney School? Are there any things that are difficult for you?*
House Captains	*How could we improve our lunchtime play offer?*

Senior Citizen's Christmas Party

We are pleased to announce that we are hosting another seasonal event for any Senior Citizens in our community on Tuesday 15th December. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our visitors to enjoy festive songs and activities with us. Please pass the information on to any relatives or neighbours who you think might enjoy the party! For timings and more information about the event please click here.



Mrs Geeson and Mr Snell

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Diary Dates

	November
Tue 17th	Small Schools Football Tournament (Y5&6) 3:45-6 Norton Hill School
Wed 18th	Online Workshop - Supporting Girls with Anxiety. See notices for the link for more information.
Thur 19th	Open Morning for prospective parents, September 2027
	After School Party (FOFGS) - more information below
Mon 23rd	MSN Cross Country Event (Y4&5) 2:30-3:45 Downside School
Tue 24th	Sports Hall Athletics 4-5:45 (Y5&6) Wellsway School
Wed 25th	INSET Day - School closed to pupils
Thur 26th	Benefice Christmas Sing 4:30-5:30 (Singing Club)
Sat 28th	Singing Club performing at Mad Swans Christmas Lights switch on
Mon 30th	WEMA Christmas Celebration at Bath Forum (Seal, Dolphin Class and Singing Club)
	December
Tue 1st	Small Schools Swimming Gala details to follow (No Dolphin Class swim this week)
Thu 3rd	Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Mon 7th	Christmas Carols at School with the Silver Band (6:00pm-7:00pm)
Tue 8th	Nativity Morning Performance 9:30am start (arr. from 9am). Ticket reservation via Arbor next week
Thur 10th	Christmas Jumper Day
	Nativity Evening Performance 5:00pm start (arr from 4:30pm). Ticket reservation via Arbor next week
Tues 15th	Senior Citizen's Christmas Party (details below)
Wed 16th	Christmas Dinner Day (choose menu option via SchoolGrid)
Thur 17th	Whole school trip to the pantomime (Arbor)
Fri 18th	Christmas Service (9:00am-10:00am)
	Term 2 ends

We have an INSET Day on Monday 4th January and the children return to school on Tuesday 5th January

Notices

- **Online Workshop - Supporting Girls with Anxiety -** Click here for more information.
- **Christmas Dinner menu** - please book a meal as soon as possible or alternatively send your child with a festive packed lunch.
- **Clubs -** All clubs to run as usual next week.
- **Christmas Card Project -** order proof cards have been sent home of the children's personally designed artwork for cards, mugs, coasters, keyrings, etc. This is a Friends School Fundraiser so please order on-line (the details are on the card). Deadline 17th November.
- **Libraries -** Please click here for the list of Library Events. They are also looking for new fiction book donations for their Gift a Book Campaign, where books are given as Christmas gifts to people who may not get anything else to unwrap. If you have any, please hand in to any of the libraries or Bath Housing, Welfare and Advice Services.
- **Open Mornings** - the next open morning is 19th November (9:30am). Registration via email/telephone to the school office.
- **St. John's Church** - Please click the link here for weekly church events.
- **Whole School Trip to Panto in Bath -** details have been added to Arbor ready for you to consent/pay.



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Thought of the Week

'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' (John 15:13)

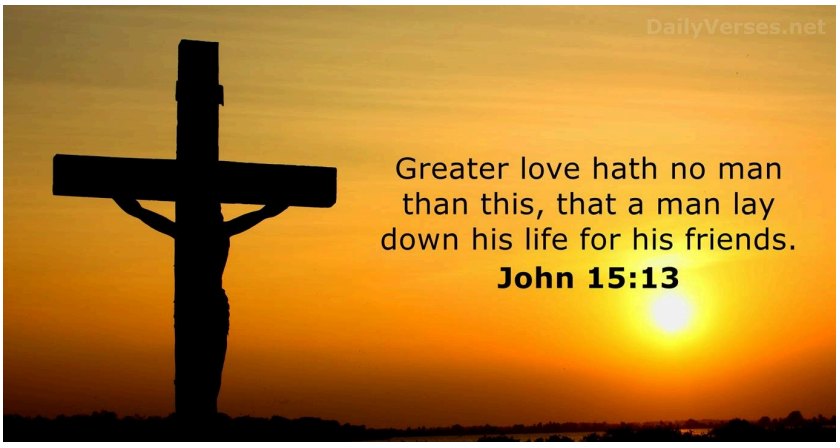


This week, I was asked why we have poppies during Remembrance. I explained that very little was able to grow on the fields where the soldiers had fought during World War One apart from poppies. The poem 'In Flanders Field' by John McCrae was where the significance of the poppy as a lasting memorial symbol was first realised. It came to represent the immeasurable sacrifice made by McCrae's comrades and went on to become a lasting memorial to those who died fighting in World War One and other conflicts. Although a beautiful flower, it is a lasting reminder of the deaths of millions.

After it was formed in 1921, the Royal British Legion went on to adopt the poppy as their symbol, in their appeal to provide aid to those serving in the British Armed Forces. Ever since this time, the poppy has always been associated with Remembrance Day.

For many people, Remembrance is a difficult time. You may remember a family member who died fighting in a war or maybe you know someone who is still fighting somewhere in the world. It's certainly not a happy occasion. Many people don't like to think about war and conflict, but it is also difficult to ignore.

For many, the poppy is a symbol of sacrifice - reminding us of people who were willing to lay down their lives for the sake of others. It reminds us of many sacrificed lives in battles over the years - past, present and future. Another symbol that reminds us of sacrifice is the cross - the place where Jesus died. But unlike the poppy, the cross reminds us of one single act of sacrifice and love for all generations, past, present and future.



Today's verse refers to someone laying down their life for a friend. Those who fight and die in battle are doing just this and are willing to die so others can have peace, freedom and life. This is a true act of bravery.

When Jesus said this verse, he was of course referring to himself. He was letting his disciples and his future followers know that he was giving his life willingly out of love. His life wasn't taken from him, he chose to go to the cross and die so that others could also experience peace, freedom and life. Peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7), freedom from their past (Romans 6:18) and life without end (John 10:27-28).

Let's continue to wear our poppies with pride, as a symbol of respect and thanks to those who have gone before us into battle. And let's also take the time to remember Jesus' one perfect sacrifice, once and for all, for now and into eternity. Amen.