Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter 11 - November 20th 2026

Winter Attendance:

As the colder weather sets in, coughs and colds become much more common across all schools. While we want everyone to stay healthy, keeping up good attendance during the winter months helps children stay on top of their learning and stay connected with their friends.

If you are unsure whether to keep your child at home, it is helpful to remember that most mild illnesses, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, do not require time off school unless your child has a temperature. For clear advice on common childhood symptoms, please read the NHS information, Is my child too ill for school? or watch this animation. If your child does seem well enough to join in with the school day but you are concerned, please let us know when you drop them off. We will always keep a close eye on them and give you a call if they are struggling.

Small Schools Football Tournament



Well done to our footballers for a fantastic team performance on Tuesday evening. They were up against some very strong teams and showed resilience and perseverance as they continued to push, score and save goals throughout all their matches. Although they didn't make it through to the final matches, they did win their placing game.

Pupil Conferencing Afternoon

Our first pupil conferencing afternoon was really successful thanks to the thoughtful and insightful contributions from all the children. Below is a summary of some of the key ideas that they came up with:

Core Question Topic	Key findings
Rewards and recognition in school	Children like to be rewarded for values and kindness, academic effort and perseverance, community and school care (for example, looking after property). As well as physical recognition (stickers, certificates), children also value special experiences and privileges, such as extra play time with friends.
Cherished school memories	Trips and residential camps, school community traditions (such as Christmas art day), friendships and Buddies, enrichment activities and extracurricular activities.
Learning enablers and classroom barriers	Things that help with learning include adults in the classroom, children encouraging each other, practical apparatus, safe and welcoming classrooms. Barriers include any low level background noise, where there are time restrictions or feeling overwhelmed.
Lunchtime play improvements	The children would like to have more large outdoor play equipment, as well as access to a wider range of sports equipment and more quiet and creative options.

We will now be reviewing these ideas in more detail and creating an action plan that we will share with children and families in the coming weeks.

School Events

Many thanks for Friends of Farrington Gurney School for organising such a fun and enjoyable party after school yesterday. We all had great fun dancing and playing games together. Coming up next will be our annual Carols by Candlelight on Monday 7th December at 6pm. See below for more details and we look forward to welcoming as many friends and families as possible to this wonderful event.

Mrs Geeson and Mr Snell

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News from the Classes

TURTLE CLASS

Turtle Class have been learning all about Diwali this week. We enjoyed hearing the story of Rama and Sita in Drawing Club and have created some wonderful pictures of the evil King! We have also created many wonderful Rangoli patterns, Mehndi designs and Diyas.



SHARK CLASS

This week, Shark class has been very busy rehearsing our lines and songs, ready for the Nativity. We have been trying really hard to use our loud speaking voices! In English, we have been writing our diary entries in role as Claude the dog.



SEAL CLASS

This week we have started our new writing topic based on the book 'The Worst Witch'. We have been acting out a funny scene where Mildred turns Ethel into a pig which we found very funny as she was meant to be turned into a frog! In computing we have been exploring different ways to start a sequence of motions and we have also been enjoying our Danny Go movement breaks!



DOLPHIN CLASS

This week we have completed our 3rd independent write based on our book The Messenger. We focused on writing to entertain through retelling Nell's story of experiencing WW1 and her role taking messages between trenches. We have also been developing our short multiplication skills progressing from the informal method, expanded method to the formal short method.



Diary Dates

	November
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)
Fri 27th	Celebration Assembly in the Village Hall (9am)
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
Fri 11th	Celebration Assembly in the Village Hall (9am)
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 in Bath (please sign up on 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

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Notices

- **Christmas Dinner menu** - please book a meal as soon as possible or alternatively send your child with a festive packed lunch.
- **Christmas Jumper Day (optional)** - The children are welcome to wear a festive decorated jumper in school on the Save the Children Christmas Jumper day on Thursday (10th) and again for our Christmas Dinner Day (16th). If you would like to make a donation please use the QR code on the posters which will be around school or click here.
- **Clubs -** Stem Club is not running next week but all others clubs are.
- **Libraries -** Please click here for the list of Library Events.
- **Nativity ticket arrangements (please read carefully as this has been tricky to arrange around Arbor's parameters):**
  4 Tickets per family initially for each performance can be reserved by going to Arbor in the **School Shop** & are free of charge.
  Donations towards hall hire, props & costumes can be given on Arbor in the **Trips** section - and are gratefully received.
  If you would like more than 4 tickets please email the office and do not reserve more at this time: any which are available can then be released after the deadline. For further details please refer to Arbor.
- **Residential Trips -** The 3rd instalments are due by 4th December for those attending the Y4 and Y6 trip.
- **St. John's Church** - Please click the link here for weekly church events.
- **Swimming -** next term it is the turn of Seal Class to swim starting on the first day back. Please consent/pay via Arbor - there is a small charge of £4/week purely for the transport which remains unchanged from last year. The Lesson costs are paid for by the school.
- **Whole School Trip to Panto in Bath -** details have been added to Arbor ready for you to consent/pay.
- **Year 6 Trip to Lifeskills** - this is on 20th January and ready for you to consent/ pay via Arbor. Thank you.





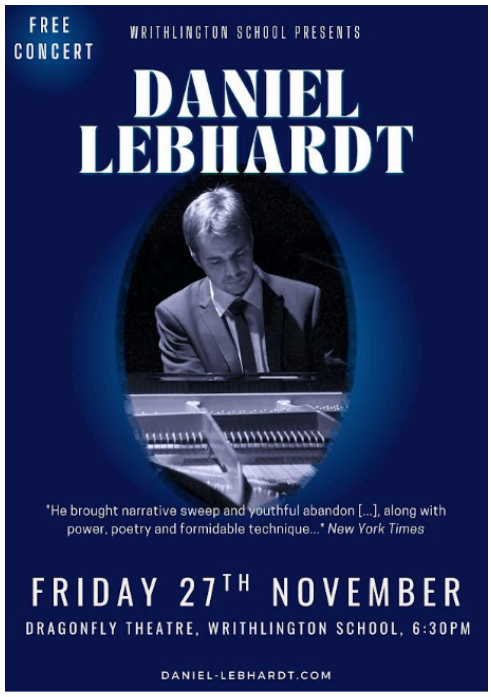


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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c 21 November 2026

For any ticketed events, visit our Virtual Library or Eventbrite for details. baneslibraries.co.uk/groups-events/

Bath Central Library

Storytime
Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00 am

Baby Bounce and Rhyme
Wednesday 10.00 - 10.30 am & 11.00 - 11.30 am

Keynsham Library

Storytime
Thursday 10.30 - 11.00 am

Baby Bounce and Rhyme
Tuesday 9.30 - 10.00 am & 10.30 - 11.00 am

Midsomer Norton Library

Storytime
Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00 am

Baby Bounce and Rhyme
Monday 11.00 - 11.30 am

Sensory Spaces

Have you visited any of our sensory spaces? Book a free spot at Midsomer Norton, Keynsham or Bath Central Library!

Our sensory spaces act as a place to take a break away from the lights and sounds of the main library. Equipped with comfy bean bags and cushions, low-level lighting and tactile objects and toys, the room is open for all to use.

Bookings are available through Eventbrite.



Thought of the Week

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‘And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.’ (Romans 5:5 NLT)



‘Hot Air Balloon Hope' - Corissa Nelson (2013)

Hope is one of those intangible things that many of us struggle with. As children, we’re not keen about the idea of hope. ‘I hope it doesn’t rain on my birthday’, ‘I hope I get that new toy’, ‘I hope my brother/sister gets told off for something’. Coupled with the rather annoying “we’ll see” when we ask our parents or carers for something, hope isn’t secure like knowing something will happen.

Even as adults, hope can still be difficult, but now what we hope for are quite different. ‘I hope I can pay that bill’, ‘I hope our child will find friends at their new school’, ‘I hope mum/dad recovers and doesn’t get any worse’. Our hopes as adults are often more serious, but the feeling is still the same. We want to know rather than hope.

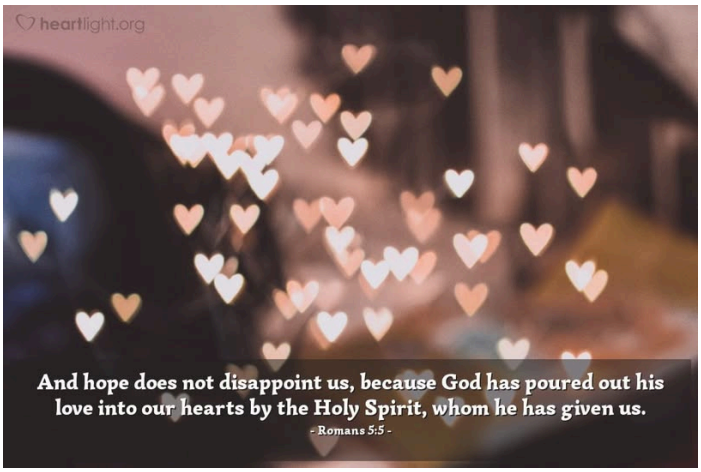
I’ve noticed over the last 40 years that Christmas is definitely getting earlier and earlier. I’m not making it up. If you go back to the 70s and 80s, decorations only started appearing in houses around the middle of December. This year, “winter lights” have been around since October! And don’t start me on garden centres, where Christmas seems to start as soon as the children go back to school.

The reason I believe people want to start Christmas earlier is because it is the season of hope. Life is difficult for many of us a lot of the time and we crave hope. We need joyful times, peaceful times and a time of celebration. Lights, decorations and music can give us those feelings.

We desire to recreate those happy memories that many of us enjoyed as children and young adults and by lighting up the house, buying some festive food and inviting friends and family around for a drink we can manufacture an atmosphere that resembles what we once had and are often desperate to have again.

Today’s verse is all about hope. When the Bible refers to hope, it is referring to something a lot more tangible. This is because it is paired up with faith. In the book of Hebrews it says:

‘*Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.*’ (Hebrews 11:1 NCV)



This is about believing in a God who dearly and deeply loves us and trusting him regardless of what’s happening in front of us. This ‘faith’ in an almighty God enables us to believe for the things we hope for, which may well change as a result of knowing him. That doesn’t mean that everything will work out exactly as we want, but there is a reason for hope and a person to hope in. Because God became man and lived among us, hope is no longer intangible, hope is no longer disappointing. Hope is a sure thing.