



Mrs Oates and Mrs Mathieson

We said a fond 'farewell' to Mrs Oates as she headed off on maternity leave this week. We are sure you will join us in wishing her well and are equally excited to hear news of a safe arrival when her baby arrives just before Christmas. We are happy to announce that we have secured the services of an excellent replacement for Mrs Oates' maternity leave. Mrs Mathieson is joining us for 3 days a week in Seal Class. She has been in school this week both to see the children again and to get planning for when she starts with us on Monday 18th December. We are sure you will give her a warm Farrington welcome.

Benefice Concert

Well done to our excellent singers from Shark and Dolphin Class who attended the Benefice Carol Concert at Paulton Church. Our contribution to the service was to sing 'It Was on a Starry Night', which they did with their usual enthusiasm.

Football Matches

We were delighted to offer two new players from Year 4 a chance to make their first appearances for the school team due to withdrawals and illness. Both Oliver and Charlie didn't look a step out of place as we competed against two very strong teams in Clutton and St Julians. Well done to the team.

Wellness Day

Christmas really seemed to start today as we held our Wellness Day. The children spent the whole day focusing on creating many varied pieces of Christmas Art ready to adorn their trees at home.



Mr Dix and Mr Turull

Notices

- **BANES Keyboard Lessons** - last lessons are next week, 8th December.
- **Car Park Work Party** - More gravel has been delivered - so please come along and help fill the holes on Saturday morning at 11am (see flyer below). The more hands; the easier the job and the car park can be reopened.
- **Christmas Jumper Day** - Is on 7th December raising money for Save the Children. Please send your child dressed in a festive coloured or styled jumper with usual school trousers, skirt etc. A £1 donation is advised; if you are able to.
- **Clubs** - Clubs finish at the end of next week.
- **Flu Immunisations** - are on Monday. If you have not booked your child for an immunisation and you wish them to have it. Please complete the consent form now using the following link: <https://schoolimms.hcrqcaregroup.com/flu/2023/banes>
- **Library events** - see [here](#) the link for exciting events happening in our libraries.
- **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** - thank you to the Year 6 pupils who helped sell the Poppy Appeal items and also to all who donated to this worthy cause which raised £101.06.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Turtle/Shark Class Trip** - Please consent/pay via ParentPay.

Diary Dates

New dates and amendments in blue

December 2023

Mon 4th	Flu Immunisations AM
Tue 5th	Panto Performance AM (for children)
Tue 5th	Swimming Gala (selected children)
Thur 7th	Save the Children Xmas Jumper Day
Fri 8th	Celebration Assembly 2:30pm
Mon 11th	Carols by Candlelight 6pm start
Tue 12th	KS1 Nativity in the hall 2pm start
Wed 13th	Christmas Dinner Day
Thu 14th	KS1 Nativity in the hall 6pm start
Mon 18th	KS1 Trip to Wookey Hole
Tue 19th	Christmas Carol Service in St John's Church (9:15am)
	End of Term 2



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Many thanks to everyone who came along to the school disco last Friday. Children and adults alike seemed to have a great time; we spotted great parent dance moves to those 90s tunes!!! The disco raised an amazing £385, thank you for supporting this event.

We also had a lovely evening at our wreath making workshop this week to kick off the festive period.

Some very impressive wreaths were constructed. Once again, a huge thank you to Sue (Fleur & Rose Clements' Grandma) for running the session and providing materials.

We have sent a message to our "occasional helpers" to request some extra hands at the Carols by Candlelight evening on 11th December. If you are able to help then please let us know.



FARRINGTON GURNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
& THE RADSTOCK SILVER BAND

Carols by Candlelight

Monday 11th December
6:00pm @ Farrington Gurney School

Midsomer Norton & Radstock Silver Band
will be playing Christmas classics and
each Class will perform a carol!
Audience participation is encouraged!

The FOFGS will be
serving turkey rolls,
hot dogs (veggie too!),
tea, coffee, hot chocolate
& mulled cider

If you have any
dietary requirements
please contact FOFGS
fofgs@hotmail.co.uk

Many thanks to
Octagon Heating Services
for the sponsorship of this event.
They have kindly covered all the food costs,
every penny raised will benefit the children in school.

EVENT
SPONSORED BY:

Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall, Village Club
& Farrington Gurney Primary School invite you:

OVERFLOW CAR PARK WORK PARTY

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER
FROM 11AM

Please join us in helping to repair
the overflow car park so it may
reopen for use

Please bring a stiff broom, shovel or wacker
plate if you have one - the more the merrier!

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
IS COMING, PEOPLE
AND IT'S GOING TO BE EPIC!

Where:
Farrington Gurney
C of E Primary School

When:
Thursday 7th December

Other details:
Recommended donation
of £1



Thought of the Week

'Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Rejoice, beloved young woman, for the Lord is with you and you are anointed with great favour."

(Luke 1:28)



'The Annunciation' - Mike Moyers (2018)

Last week, we looked at the significance of light and how important it still is in today's world. Nowadays, we can function for much longer without sunlight because we have the ability to illuminate our homes by a simple flick of a switch (or of course we might prefer to ask Alexa!). It wasn't always like this and in today's chapter in the Christmas story, we might get a glimpse of just how dark times could be.

Little is known about the real Mary. It is believed that as she was pledged to marry Joseph, she is likely to have been about 13 years old, maybe even younger. People didn't live as long 2000 years ago and there was a high infant-mortality rate, so girls would be expected to marry and start families much earlier.

In these times you would be shamed if you were pregnant outside of marriage, something that was still a thing in this country up until the 1950s. So although the appearance of the angel would have brought lots of light, the message he shared would have led to some very dark times for Mary.

She would be pregnant without being married and according to Jewish law, she could have been stoned for this. It would have meant Joseph annulling the marriage at the very least. His family and possibly Mary's would have rejected her because of the unborn baby and she would have been scorned by the community. This would have meant that unless Joseph went through with the marriage, she would have been left to bring up the child by herself, with little money or resources - a woman couldn't easily earn money in those days.

But even with the fear of shame, poverty and possibly death, Mary responded with these words.

"Yes! I will be a mother for the Lord! As his servant, I accept whatever he has for me. May everything you have told me come to pass."
(Luke 1:38)

A vision of light that could have led to a life of darkness. But still Mary was obedient. What a story of hope and love. Surely what this season is all about!

AND THE ANGEL CAME IN UNTO HER, AND SAID,
HAIL, THOU THAT ART HIGHLY FAVOURED, THE LORD
IS WITH THEE: BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN.

-LUKE 1:28 KJV