Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter 12 - November 27th 2026

Cross Country and Indoor Athletics

Mrs Mathieson was very proud of our pupils who took part in the Downside Cross Country event on Monday, particularly noting their wonderful team spirit as they cheered one another on. She was equally impressed by the Sports Hall Athletics team who represented the school at Wellsway on Tuesday. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers for helping with transport - your support makes it possible for our children to enjoy such a wide range of sporting opportunities.

Benefice Concert



The first of our festive singing events took place yesterday evening at Holy Trinity Church in Paulton. We were really impressed by the lovely singing of our Singing Club and are very much looking forward to Singing Club performing at Mad Swans on Saturday evening as part of their Christmas Lights switch on. Thank you to Mrs Frampton for all her hard work to ensure that these events can happen and to Mr Burnett for his organisation and for providing the accompaniment yesterday.

Year 6 Play Leaders



Well done this week to Kaiden, Esme and Scarlett for leading our largest group yet in a lunchtime club. The children enjoyed a run and energetic version of Dodgeball in the hall on Thursday.

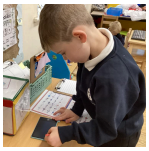
Carols by Candlelight

Please help us spread the word about our annual community event, taking place this year on **Monday 7th December at 6:00 pm**. Alongside traditional carol singing, we will be treated to festive performances from all our classes and the Singing Club. The Friends of Farrington Gurney School will also be serving mince pies and hot drinks. We hope to see as many of you there as possible - please bring along friends, relatives, and neighbours too!

Mrs Geeson and Mr Snell

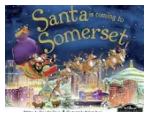
News from the Classes





Turtle Class have been making excellent progress in Phonics over the past few weeks. They are really beginning to use their sound knowledge to blend confidently and more fluently. Well done Turtles, keep up the amazing effort as we progress further into Phase Three and all of the digraphs.





We have been busy practising our songs and dance routines ready for the Nativity and are so excited to share our performance with you. This week, we have started to explore our new class book - Santa is Coming to Somerset. We have made predictions on what we think will happen in the story and we will be reading it next week. Stay tuned to find out how accurate our predictions are!





In English this week we have been reading more of The Worst Witch. Our favourite lesson was designing a broomstick for Mildred! We had some great idea like wheels for a smooth landing, jet boosters for speed and a potion holder. We will be writing persuasive adverts for them next week.



This week, we have started practicing division by first partitioning into tens and ones before moving onto the "bus stop" method today. Year 6 have progressed further to writing their remainders as decimals. In Science, we investigated the impact of the size of parachutes and the effects of air resistance which we will continue to explore next week.

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Diary Dates

	November
Sat 28th	Singing Club performing at Mad Swans Christmas Lights switch on
Mon 30th	WEMA Christmas Celebration at Bath Forum (Seal and Dolphin Class)
	December
Tue 1st	Small Schools Swimming Gala details have been shared (No Dolphin Class swim this week)
Wed 2nd	Christmas Arts Day
Thu 3rd	Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Fri 4th	Multi-activity day at Bath University (invitations have been sent for this)
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
Thur 10th	Christmas Jumper Day
	Nativity Evening Performance 5:00pm start (arr from 4:30pm). Ticket reservation via Arbor
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) & wear Christmas Jumper
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

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. We had our first donation given this week - thank you, you know who you are.
- **Clubs -** As pre-arranged Art Workshop after school club is not running on Mon 30th but all others clubs are.
- **Libraries -** Please click here for the list of Library Events.
- **Nativity ticket arrangements:** please refer to newsletter #11.
- **Residential Trips -** The 3rd instalments are due by 4th December for those attending the Y4 and Y6 trips.
- **St. John's Church** - Please click the link here for weekly church events.
- **Swimming - Dolphin Class.** The next class swimming session will be on Tuesday 9th There is no swimming next week due to the Swimming Gala.
- **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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Thought of the Week

'The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.' (John 1:5)



Have you ever noticed how much difference one little candle can make in a dark room? It's like one moment, you're surrounded by darkness and you can't see a thing. Then just that one little flame can make all the difference. Suddenly the darkness has gone. It's not wonderfully clear and bright either, but the 'shroud' has dispersed and you begin to see things again.

Light is often used as an analogy for hope. If darkness represents difficulty, deceit, death and despair, then light represents the opposite - happiness, hope, love and life.

So many religions and beliefs throughout history have enjoyed light and have used it to symbolise these things. Since the dawn of agricultural civilizations and the development of human cultures, sun worshipping has been a common theme. This includes the Ancient Egyptian belief in the sun god Ra and the Ancient Greek belief in the sun as Helios. Many Native American tribes still honour the traditions of sun worship by practising a sun dance every year to renew their bonds with the earth and the growing season.

In the Jewish religion, Hanukkah is celebrated every November/December and commemorates the miracle of light that occurred when Judah rededicated the Temple to God in the second century BCE. It's believed that one day's worth of oil was able to keep the menorah alight for eight days until new oil could be prepared.

Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists and is known as the festival of lights. Although for each faith it marks different historical events and stories, the festival represents the same symbolic victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil.



For billions of people around the world, light is something to celebrate, especially when there is so much darkness around. The symbolism of light is obviously very clear in the Christmas story and during Advent, which starts next Sunday.

Our verse today is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel. He talks about 'the Life-Light' and here John, who was a disciple, is referring to Jesus. He is the 'Life-Light' that blazes out of the darkness. If darkness represents despair and death, then surely Jesus represents hope, love and life. Jesus even referred to himself as the 'light of the world'.

Light is important - whether we were alive 1000s of years ago, where the sun was the only source of light or whether we are alive now, with lights in every room and even on our phones. We need light and without it, we can't survive. Maybe this is why John and Jesus used light as an analogy.