



Seal Class

We are really pleased to let you know that we have appointed a teacher for Seal Class, who will be starting with us in the second week in January. Mrs Newman is joining us from St Mary's Primary School in Timsbury and will be teaching in Seal Class on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She has a wealth of experience having worked in a variety of schools in Bristol as well as our local area. Mrs Oates has made the decision to reduce her days due to family commitments and will be in Seal Class on Mondays and Tuesdays. The class will get to meet Mrs Newman as she will be visiting the school to get to know the children before starting next term.

Benefice Schools' Christmas Sing

Yesterday, we joined together with the other churches in our Benefice to begin to welcome the Christmas period ahead of the start of advent this weekend. The service, led by Reverend Pitt, helped us to remember the real message of Christmas and there was some really beautiful singing by our Singing Club. Many thanks to Mrs Frampton for leading this and to everyone involved.



This Girl Can

On Tuesday, all our girls in Years 4 and 5 went to the hall for a 'This Girl Can' sports session arranged by the BANES School Sports Partnership. It was a really positive experience for all the girls, with everyone showing great determination, encouragement and confidence. They tackled everything with 100% commitment and we are so proud of how they approached this session.



Christmas Making Day

On Monday we will be hosting our annual Christmas art day, where the children will have a great time working in their houses on a range of different craft activities. They will be in normal school uniform for this. The children are also busy practising their songs for Carols by Candlelight on Monday 8th December at 6 o'clock on the school playground. Further details about the event can be found below, and we look forward to seeing as many people from school and the community there as possible.

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 28th 2025



School Grid - New Dinner Booking Payment System

We emailed you yesterday to introduce you to the new software being implemented in primary schools in MNSP called SchoolGrid for the ordering and payment(if applicable) of your child's school meals, starting from 6th January 2026 when ParentPay will no longer be in use.

With SchoolGrid, you can easily order and pay for your child's school meals with just a few clicks. To get started, SchoolGrid will be sending you a welcome email with instructions on how to activate your account and create your password - this is expected around 1st December so please look out for this and check your SPAM. The cut off time for ordering lunches remains the same i.e. lunches need to be booked in advance and by the current midnight on Thursday deadline. Parents will be responsible for adding allergens on SchoolGrid - this will reflect in the menu choices available. Please can we ask that any lunches that you may have booked for 2026 are cancelled within ParentPay as they will not be transferred to SchoolGrid.

Help us earn books for school!

Here's a few of the books on offer in this festive book fair! There are lots of other great books to see there, too. Simply order online and books will be delivered free to school by 17th December. For every 10 books you buy, our school earns two books FREE!!

Book Title	Author	Price
Supertato: We Wish You a Veggie Christmas!	David Almond	£7.99
The Sleigh Queens Save Christmas	Sally Darcy	£2.00
Tiger, It's Snowing!	David Almond	£7.99
Puzzle Slug	Michael Rusek	£7.99
The Forever Bear	David Almond	£7.99

ORDER BY 12th DECEMBER

Scan the QR code to visit the Book Fair

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Avalanche	David Almond	£7.99
My Big Fat Christmas Poo Diary	David Almond	£7.99
Cruise Ship Kid	Emma Swan	£7.99
Peregrine Quinn	Ash Buro	£7.99
The Snowy Penguin	Fluffy Webb	£7.99
Hugh Bonneville Rory Sparkes	David Almond	£7.99

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Arbor - Important information on the switch from ParentPay to Arbor for Club & Trip Payments

Please refer to the link [here](#) for the correspondence sent earlier this week : thank you

A further updated will be emailed on Monday



Notices

- **BANES/Activate** - We sent to parents/guardians of pupils who qualify for FSM, details of the Activate Holiday programme this week. Please see your emails.
- **Christingle Service** - On Monday we will send home a pocket money collection candle for loose change donations for The Children's Society. These can be handed back to school or church at the very special Christingle service at 3pm on Christmas Eve.
- **Christmas dinner** - The children can either enjoy a Christmas dinner cooked by the school catering team (FOC/ KS1 and £2.60/KS2 pupils) or bring a festive packed lunch on Wednesday 17th. Booking is via ParentPay as soon as possible. Please mark on ParentPay if bringing a packed lunch on this day.
- **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 (11th) and again for our Christmas Dinner Day (17th). If you would like to make a donation please see the following link [here](#).
- **Clubs** - All clubs will be running next week and end on Friday 5th (Football ends on the 16th)
- **Dolphin Swimming Transport** Please can those who have transport sessions remaining to pay for on ParentPay please do this as soon as possible. There is no swimming due to the Schools Swimming Gala on Tue 2nd and a refund will be given for this before the end of term. Thank you.
- **Nativity Performances** - Our morning performance is Tuesday 9th, 9.30-11am and the evening performance is Thursday 11th, 5-6.30pm. Tickets can be booked via ParentPay (3 tickets/family per performance); please contact the office if you require more. A professional photo will be taken and available for purchase at the start of each performance (8x6 = £8, 10x8 = £10) payable by credit card. There will be refreshments available.
- **Seal Swimming** - next term it is the turn of Seal Class to swim and further details were sent to parents/carers via email on Wednesday. Please consent/pay via ParentPay. There is a voluntary charge of £4/week requested for the cost of the transport and can be paid weekly, monthly or termly. The swimming lessons are paid for by school. If you have any problems please contact the office.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.

Diary Dates

December

Tue 2nd	Small Schools Swimming Gala details to follow (No Dolphin Class swim this week)
Thu 4th	Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Mon 8th	Christmas Carols at School with the Silver Band (6:00pm-7:00pm)
Tue 9th	Nativity Morning Performance 9:30am
Wed 10th	Dr Dolittle animated performance in school - costs kindly covered by Friends
Thu 11th	Christmas Jumper Day (donation via link above)
	Nativity Evening Performance 5:00pm
Wed 17th	Christmas Dinner Day (menu option via ParentPay)
Fri 19th	Christmas Service (9:00am-10:00am)
	Term 2 ends

We have an INSET Day on Monday 5th January and the children return to school on Tuesday 6th January

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We hope everyone had fun at the disco on Saturday night, thanks to your support we raised £200!
We look forward to seeing people at the pottery on Saturday and if anyone still wants to join please just mention that you attend Farrington school and they can add you to our list.

Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Christmas Pottery Painting

Saturday 29th November
2:00PM - 4:00PM

20% of all sales will be donated to Friends of Farrington Gurney School

£5 deposit required to reserve your space

To book please contact FOFGS:
fofgs@hotmail.co.uk

Venue: Little Pottery Barn @ Farrington

Primary School Christmas Dinner
Menu
17th December 2025

Slice of Turkey with Gluten Free Stuffing
Wrapped in Bacon. (GF)
Vegan Quorn Fillet with Gravy (V) GF / DF
Christmas Cracker Parcel with Tomato Sauce (V)
Served with:- Carrots, Peas and Roast Potatoes, Chipolata Sausage.

Christmas Tree Ice Cream
Christmas Biscuits (G/F - D/F - Dietary Pupils Only)

THANK YOU

from Bath, Keynsham and
Somer Valley Foodbank

Farrington School

for collecting

A fabulous 66kg of Harvest Food

FARRINGTON GURNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND THE MSNR SILVER BAND PRESENT:

Carols by Candlelight

Monday 8th December
6:00pm @ Farrington Gurney School

The classes and the Singing Club will be performing Christmas carols and songs: participation from attendees is encouraged!

Please bring a candle or small light/torch with you to use during the performances.

Please remember to bring your reusable cups!

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

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR: OHS

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

and for supporting families, couples and individuals facing crisis in our community.
Your help will make a difference to people's lives!



www.genestrust.org.uk

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Thought of the Week

'...The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:30-33)

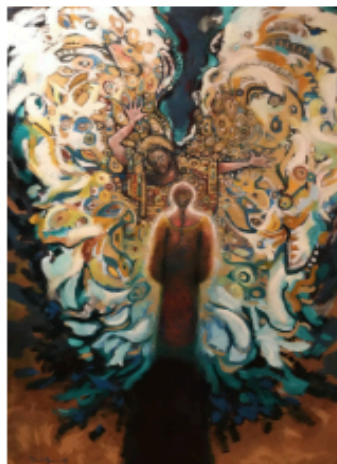


The Annunciation - Henry Ossawa Tanner (1898)



Annunciation with St Margaret and St. Ansanus - Simone Martini (1333)

I wonder what it would have been like. I imagine Mary was just going about her daily business, maybe doing some cleaning or preparing some food. Maybe she was getting ready for bed or even asleep and something woke her.



The Annunciation IV - Daniel Bonnell (2019-2020)

In the different pictures I've included, the angel is portrayed in many different ways and Mary's responses are also quite different - rejection, confusion, fear. I imagine that at first this news may have produced all of these emotions. 'Even though you don't have a husband, you are going to have a baby and he will be the son of God and his kingdom will never end.' In that day and age, being pregnant without a husband might have led to a woman being stoned to death. Even if you could keep it a secret from the village, it could lead to rejection and possible abandonment from your own



Ecce Ancilla Domini! - Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1849-50)

If we read on though, Mary's initial reactions of confusion and fear led to humble obedience and acceptance - "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." (Luke 1:38). Her example is one that is revered and admired by millions of Christians all over the world and the reason she is so celebrated. No wonder God chose her to be the bearer of the promised Messiah.