



Christmas Events

We have had a busy week as we head towards Christmas. Firstly, we had a brilliant time in the hall on Tuesday as we were all treated to a performance of Aladdin. The children (and staff) had a great time hissing and booing and singing and shouting along to the action. Many thanks to FoFGS for making this event possible.



the Christmas jumpers get a second wearing on Wednesday for Christmas Dinner Day (no donations needed).

Morning Routine

We are hoping that the car park opposite school will be open again from Monday - thank you to the volunteers who are giving up some of their Sunday morning to help, it is much appreciated. The reopening should make mornings a bit easier, so we would like to reiterate the morning routine for clarity:

8:35 Gate opens

8:45 Gate closes - any arrivals after this go through the office

8:50 Registers close and arrivals from now are marked as (L) late

9:15 onwards will be marked as an unauthorised absence. (Unless there are exceptional circumstances - eg snow or flooding)

Thank you for your ongoing support - we are proud to be one of top schools within the trust when it comes to attendance.

Pilot Visit

Dolphin Class had the opportunity to question Bertie Blair, a former RAF pilot who now works for EasyJet, on his life's journey from growing up in a small village to leading a team of over 150 people.



The children questioned him about all aspects of his life as part of their biography writing lessons. They certainly impressed Bertie, who commented on what a great bunch of inquisitive children they were.

Christmas Tree Donation

Many thanks to Farrington's for their kind donation of a tree for the playground again this year. It has become a tradition that the Year 6 children get to dress the tree ready for Carols by Candlelight.

At the end of term, the tree is available to take away for any family willing to make a small donation to the PTA. See a member of FoFGS for more details.

Mr Dix and Mr Turull



Turtle and Shark Class visited the Methodist Church this week to attend an 'Experience Christmas' event. They learnt all about the Christmas story and the real meaning of Christmas in addition to the sending and receiving of gifts.

Road Closure

Please bear with us over the next few days as the work to improve the safety of the road for the children takes place. It is now open again until early next week when they will need to close it again to complete the work. We are hoping it will be finished by the end of Wednesday.

Swimming Gala

Well done to the children who represented the school at the Midsomer Norton Schools Swimming Gala this week.

The team placed 6th equal with Rhys (2nd for 25M freestyle), Fin (2nd for 25m) and Bow (3rd all receiving individual medals. The whole team was a credit to the school with their behaviour and determination.

Christmas Jumper Day

As a result of holding Christmas Jumper Day, we are able to send £86.27 to Save the Children. Many thanks for your support - and remember



This Week's Learners of the Week	
Compassionate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scarlett Ivy M Paris Rhys
Agile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colby Finn Freya Jacob
Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivy W Ted Ollie Daisy
Engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imogen Heidi Amber Fin
Well Done - Keep up the Good Work!	

House Points for Good Manners & Tidiness (Last 2 Weeks)			
Ferentone	Mogg	Gournay	Azelin
13	20	26	24
Total so far for this term			
Ferentone	Mogg	Gournay	Azelin
42	69	59	61

<p>Lunchtime Superstars</p>	<p>Teddy Colby Billy Mollie</p>
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- **Christmas Cards** - the children can bring cards to school to post in the school Christmas Post Boxes for their friends & teachers. They will be sorted by our school elves and delivered to class in the last week of term.
- **Christingle Service** - We have sent home a pocket money collection candle for donations of loose change towards The Childrens Society. These can be handed back to school or church at the service (see flyer). Please return any empty collection candles for reuse next year.
- **Clubs** - Clubs have now finished. A new letter will be sent out next week for clubs next term (it will include a link to a google form).
- **Library events** - see [here](#) the link for exciting events happening in our libraries.
- **Nativity Performances** - The matinee is Tuesday afternoon and on Thursday it is the evening performance. Please remember to book your tickets via ParentPay by Sunday midnight. (3 tickets/family: please contact the office if you require more). There will be a professional photo available to purchase and refreshments before it starts.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Swimming** - it is the turn of Seal Class to swim in term 3 & 4. Please consent via ParentPay.

Diary Dates

New dates and amendments in blue

December 2023

- Mon 11th Carols by Candlelight 6pm start
- Tue 12th KS1 Nativity (arrive 1.30pm for 2pm start)
- Wed 13th Christmas Dinner Day
- Thu 14th KS1 Nativity (arrive 5.30 for 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

January 2024

- Tue 2nd [Inset Day](#)
- Wed 3rd [Inset Day](#)
- Thur 4th [Term starts for children](#)
- Tue 9th [Swimming for Seal Class](#)

Notices

- **BANES Keyboard Lessons** - the last lessons for this term are today.
- **Car Park Work Party** - More gravel has been delivered - so please come along and help fill the holes on SUNDAY morning at 11am (see flyer below). The more hands; the easier the job and the car park can be reopened. Thank you.

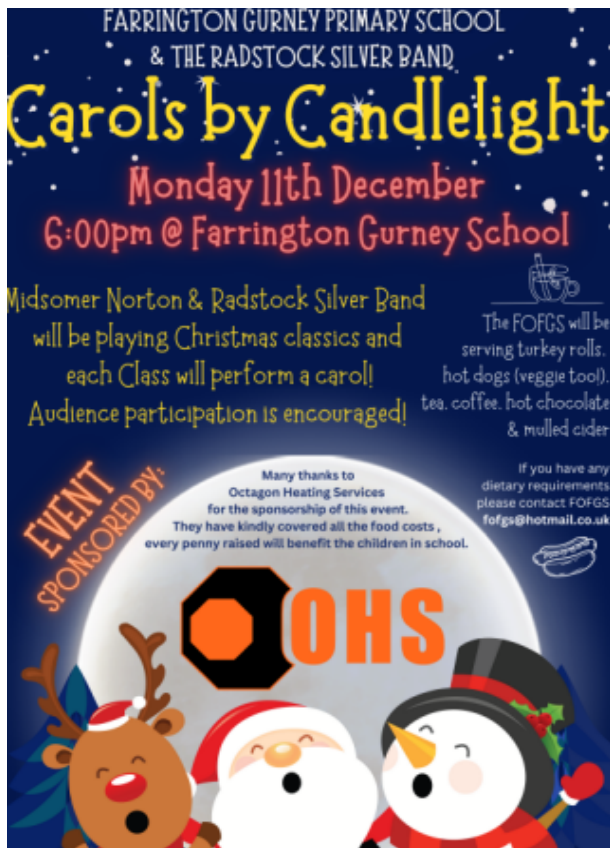


Friends of Farrington Gurney School

It is lovely to hear how much all the children enjoyed the panto earlier this week, such a fantastic experience the funding from the PTA can provide.

We will be serving hot drinks, mulled cider, turkey rolls and hot dogs at the Carols by Candlelight on Monday (11th). **Please bring a reusable cup if you would like a drink.** If you are able to offer any help with the evening, serving drinks etc then please let us know. We would be extremely grateful for a few more volunteers.

We will also be serving hot drinks and mince pies at the two nativity performances next week so please bring cash or card along.



**Avon and Somerset Police
ROADS POLICING**

E-SCOOTERS AND THE LAW

It is against the law to ride a privately-owned electric scooter (e-scooter) on a public road or pavement.

We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can buy them from many popular retailers.

Current law

You can buy an e-scooter, but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place those e-scooters can be used is on private land with the landowner's permission.

Further information

Further details can be found on the following government website: **Powered transporters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**

What happens if I'm stopped by the police?

The police will advise you of the current law on using an e-scooter legally and have the powers to seize it. Alongside this you could face a fine and/or points on your driving licence as anyone riding an e-scooter, must adhere to the normal traffic laws when on the road. Once seized the e-scooter is destroyed.



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

**OVERFLOW CAR PARK
WORK
PARTY**

**SUNDAY 10th 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!





Thought of the Week

'An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.' (Luke 2:9)



'Host Of Angels' - Mike Moyers (2013)

During advent we have been focusing on light. First, we looked at how important light is in our world, even in the 21st Century. We then looked at Gabriel appearing to Mary - a vision of light that may have led to a life of darkness, but instead brought hope. Now it's the shepherds' turn.

Shepherds during this time were marginalised by society. The religious leaders at the time would have vilified shepherds and buying wool or milk from them was banned as it was assumed it was stolen. They were labelled as 'sinners', which in those days was a term used for a class of despised people.

To get an idea of just how despised some of them were, you might want to take a look at this short film which creates a picture of what it may have been like for one shepherd at the very first Christmas - <https://watch.thechosen.tv/video/184683594365>.

The Bible clearly states that these were the first people that were told about Jesus' birth. Luke was a doctor and it is believed that he would have done extensive research into the nativity story. We only know about the shepherds' part in the story because of Luke's Gospel. Many people believe that he would have spoken to Mary herself when finding out what happened and she

would have remembered them being at Jesus' birth.

But why shepherds?

These men lived dark, desperate and deprived lives. If anyone needed some light in their lives, it was these guys. In fact, when they were told the news, it says that they hurried off to find the baby in the manger ([Luke 2:16](#)). They were overjoyed by this news and after seeing Jesus, they then went off to share what they had seen with others (v.17).

I imagine that the light of this "great company of heavenly host" would have been overwhelming. The Greek word for 'host' is *stratia* and refers to heavenly bodies or the stars in the sky. This was a great company of heavenly hosts, so they would have been many times brighter than all the stars in the sky. No wonder they were terrified. But what a sight it must have been. And what a message of love, hope and joy.

This same message is still available to us today. We may be more sophisticated and knowledgeable than these shepherds would have been, but with all we have and all we know, don't we still need love, hope and joy in our lives? Our modern world has answers for so many things and we can do so much more now, but some things haven't changed.

Christmas is a season of hope - a confident expectation of what is to come. It is a season of joy - a happy heart attitude that goes beyond our circumstances. It is also a season of love - a profound and sacrificial love that unites and heals. Let's hope we can all experience this, at least in part, over this coming season.

