



We are going back to the usual weekly newsletter and not a daily update now that all children are back in school. This means that any changes to a weekly routine in class will be communicated through the class teacher.

You may have read in the news about changes to national curriculum assessments this year. To confirm, there will be no written assessments for children in Year 2 (end of Key Stage 1) with all judgements being made by teacher assessment. At Key Stage 2, the Reading and Mathematics papers will continue as in previous years and writing will be teacher assessed. There will be no GPS test (grammar, punctuation and spelling). The children in Year 1 will still have the Phonics Screening check.

Mr Turull

Notices

- **Breakfast Club** – there are only 3 bookings for breakfast club next term. Please can we ask that you make your bookings as soon as possible so we can plan for food purchases.
- **Clubs** – clubs finish today. A new club letter will be sent out with this newsletter, which includes one for the Reception children. Please submit your requests for next terms clubs by the morning of Thursday 17th December.
- **Dinners** – Options for all year groups can now be made for Term 3 via ParentPay and by the latest Thursday 31st December for the first week back.
- **Music Lessons** – Music for Schools (woodwind) have now completed this term's online lessons. We have received an update this week that correspondence will be sent home regarding the start date back 'in school' which will now be the middle of January. BANES Music (strings & keyboard) will also deliver some extra catch up lessons on Monday 14th December and the usual lesson next Friday 18th December.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service link: <https://mailchi.mp/e0667d728736/paulton-benefice-zoom-service-13069959>

Christmas Art Day



School Diary Dates

December 2020

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| Mon 14th | BANES Music Lessons am |
| Wed 16th | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
School Christmas Dinner
Pantomime for children in class |
| Fri 18th | BANES Music Lessons pm
Term 2 ends |
| Sat 19th/
Sun 20th | Farrington Gurney Christmas Trail |

We have two INSET Days on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January. Children return to school on Wednesday 6th January.



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

Sometimes I am bowled over by what some celebrities have achieved. Matt Damon became the co-founder of Water.org, which raises awareness of water problems in developing countries. Leonardo DiCaprio created a foundation which grants projects that support fragile ecosystems, and increases media attention to environmental issues. Adele made a surprise visit to the Grenfell Tower fire fighters to thank them for their hard work and bravery...and best of all, she bought cakes. More recently, we have seen Marcus Rashford, the Manchester United striker, campaigning to make sure that children who are hungry will get to eat during the summer holidays.

I am also overwhelmed when I consider how much money is donated by some of our world's most successful business people. Larry Page and Sergey Brin, the men who co-founded Google, have donated \$1.5 billion and \$2.2 billion respectively to charity. Carlos Slim, who controls the biggest telecoms company in Latin America, has donated \$4 billion to charity. But by far the most incredible is Bill Gates, who has donated a staggering \$41 billion to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

When we see the amazing things that these people are doing around the world and the difference they are making, we can sometimes feel insignificant. What can I do to make a difference?

Let's consider for a moment someone who was seen as insignificant. A poor manual labourer who just managed to make ends meet. He had a trade, something that would pay the bills, but it wouldn't make him particularly wealthy. He probably took pride in his work, he was probably very good at what he did, yet he may well have been looked down upon by others in society. He was skilled, but it wasn't a world famous skill. What difference could this man make?

And let's consider another insignificant person. A girl - maybe only thirteen or fourteen. She might be able to sew; she would be able to clean up around the house; maybe she could even cook a little. But she didn't have any outstanding qualities in the eyes of those around her and she was probably looked down upon. Surely she couldn't help change the world? What difference could this girl make?

Let's consider these two for a moment. In the world's eyes, they were insignificant and not very worthy. But at Christmas, we remember them as the people who were chosen to parent the Son of God.

A man who could make ends meet and could support his family, who could pass on his trade to his son. And a teenage mum - someone who may well have been rejected by her nearest and dearest, yet she was chosen to bring up this unique child.

Sometimes we can feel insignificant, but let's just remember this couple. In the world's eyes maybe we aren't very special and we can't make a difference. But in Psalm 139:14 it says *'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.'*

When we feel insignificant, let's remember these words and consider how wonderfully and awesomely we have been made.

