



Christmas Week

It has been another very busy week in school.

On Wednesday the junior classes, like the infants last week, went to the Methodist Church for the 'Experience Christmas' event.

There was then a very tasty Christmas

Dinner served in the hall and the photo shows the children all waving their crackers in the air! The week also saw two nativity performances, well done to the children who worked really hard learning the songs and words.



Moving On

At the end of this term we will be saying some goodbyes.

Mrs Nowell will be leaving us. We would like to thank her for her efforts in settling the children into Turtle Class since September, as well as wishing her good luck in her next adventure.

Mrs Huckman will be moving into the HLTA role supporting teaching in Turtle Class. Like Mrs Nowell, Mrs Huckman is also a qualified teacher and she is looking forward to getting going in the new year. To ensure the good work Mrs Huckman has started as our intervention TA continues, we are recruiting for her replacement in the first few weeks of January.

Also leaving us is Jude in Dolphin Class. Jude joined us in Year 4 and is now moving on to another school. We wish him every success in the future.

Mr Dix and Mr Turull

Parent Pay "how to"

Click [here](#) to see how to set up a ParentPay Alert. This will let you know via email (free) or text (6p each) when a Payment is due or communication has been added for you to read.

Notices

- **BANES Keyboard Lessons** - lessons start again on Friday 12th January.
- **Breakfast Club** - Please book your places for next term via ParentPay.
- **Communication from the MAT** - Please click [here](#) for the link to the letter from Alun Williams.
- **Car Park Working Party** - Please come along and help fill the holes this SUNDAY morning at 11am. The more hands; the easier the job and the car park can be reopened. Thank you.
- **Christingle Service** - Please remember to return the pocket money donation candle (raising money for The Children's Society) or take it to the Christingle service on the 24th December.
- **Clubs** - The clubs letter was sent out on Wednesday afternoon by email. Apologies for the initial link glitch which is now working ([click here](#)). Please can you return your child's options by Tuesday 19th December. Thank you.
- **Dinners** - Please book your child's school meal options for next term via Parent Pay.
- **Library events** - see [here](#) the link for exciting events happening in our libraries.
- **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 Terms 3 & 4. Please consent via ParentPay.
- **Year 6 Lifeskills Trip** - Please pay/consent for the trip to Lifeskills by January 26th. Thank you.

Diary Dates

[New dates and amendments in blue](#)

December 2023

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
[Fri 12th Celebration Assembly \(9:15am Village Hall\)](#)
[Thu 18th Stay and Cafe Assembly in Church \(9:15am\)](#)
[Fri 26th Celebration Assembly \(9:15am Village Hall\)](#)



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

We hope everyone enjoyed the Carols by candlelight this week. Our hot dogs, turkey rolls and drinks were extremely popular and we raised a magnificent £575. Huge thank you to those who helped with the evening, far too many to mention individually but you all know who you are!!! Special thanks to Gary Johnstone for cooking and serving the food.

Have an amazing Christmas break, we will be back in the new year with details of our spring term events. Thanks once again for your support at the events this term.



IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE



Christingle

**SUNDAY 24TH DEC
3PM - 4PM**

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Charity No. 1067859

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

**OVERFLOW CAR PARK
WORK
PARTY**

**SUNDAY 17th 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

'When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.' (Matthew 2:10)



'The Adoration Of The Magi' - James Tissot (1886-94)

During advent we have been thinking about light. We have focused on the importance of light and we have noticed that light is celebrated all over the world, in different countries and cultures.

When it comes to thinking about the wise men, or magi, the Bible tells us that they followed a great light in the sky. Modern day theologians think that this "star" may have been the conjunction of two planets, Jupiter and Venus, and one star, Regulus.

Though light was probably important to these men, it wasn't the star itself that they were pleased about, it was *who* the star was pointing to. And if it was a conjunction of Jupiter, Venus and Regulus, this is also significant. Jupiter is often referred to as the



God of Heaven or King of the Gods. Venus is often associated with love and beauty. Regulus in Latin means "little king" and it is located in the constellation Leo. So it is literally the little king in the heart of the Lion.

Although light was important, for the Magi, *being enlightened* was what led them to Jesus. They would have understood the significance of these 'heavenly bodies'. Scholars believe that they may have travelled for up to 1000 miles to get to Bethlehem. This could have taken them 5 months, which is a return journey of almost a year! And although these men were wise priests (the literal meaning of magi), who would have been well respected leaders and with some degree of wealth, they got down on their knees, with their faces to the ground and worshipped the infant Jesus. The original Hebrew suggests that they worshipped him as a king, giving him the same civil honour and respect as they would have done for their own kings and princes.

What led them to do this? It's one thing for some local shepherds to come wandering in to see the arrival of a new baby boy, but these men were prepared, committed and determined and they had great foreknowledge. And they weren't just happy. One translation says 'they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy'. This is serious jubilation!

Christmas is often seen as a season of joy. But if we end up putting our hope in the wrong things, that joy doesn't remain. Once the presents have all been unwrapped, the decorations are all down and our family have all gone back home, there doesn't seem to be much left to be joyful about.

Let's hope that this year, some of the joy the magi experienced at discovering Jesus might rub off onto us and we might realise that there is something eternal that is worth getting excited about.

