



## Christmas Week

It has been a very enjoyable last week of term. The week started with a very well-attended Carols by Candlelight concert with the Radstock and Midsomer Norton Silver Band, along with contributions from our children playing recorders and cello. Many thanks to FoFGS for their support, and to attendees who helped them raise nearly £500 through the sale of food and drink. Please see a list of other 'thank you's' below in the Friends' box.

Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day was also a great success. The children enjoyed tucking into their Christmas dinners whilst listening to some festive tunes in the Memorial Hall.

A packed church for our Christmas Service rounded off our week, where we all joined together to sing some carols, listen to each class perform a song and hear the Christmas story through some Year 6 readings. We also awarded the Governors' Cup; this term Millie in Year 2 won the Infant Cup, while Emily in Year 6 won the Junior Cup. Well done to them and all the children who were nominated.

## School Vision

We are working on creating a new school vision which will encompass what we are trying to achieve as a school. This is a big undertaking as we will be taking the views from all stakeholders: children, parents, staff and governors.

Many thanks to the parents and carers who have already completed the survey sent via email this week. It is only open until the 23rd, so that the outcomes can be collated and shared with staff on INSET Day in January.

Today we said a sad farewell to Mrs Rachel Williams, who has worked at the school for nearly eight years. She has always put the care of the children at the forefront of everything she has done in class, while being an excellent, dedicated teaching assistant. We wish her the very best in her next venture.

We would like to finish by wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas. As always, we are grateful to the whole school community for working alongside us as staff - and our fantastic pupils - to make Farrington Gurney such a special place to learn and to work. We look forward to seeing you all again early in January.

## Notices

- **Breakfast Club** - Please make your bookings for next term as soon as possible and no later than Thursday midnight 29th December.
- **Christmas Jumper Day** - Thank you to those who sent a donation towards Save the Children - we raised £52.22.
- **Clubs** - Please see [here](#) the link to the list of clubs which the children wanted to attend. Those who have not paid for Archery should do so as soon as possible to ensure your child's place is booked with Premier Sport. Any queries with this please contact the office. Clubs start back on Monday 9th January.
- **Dinners** - Please make your orders via ParentPay for Term 3 as soon as possible and no later than Thursday midnight 29th December. **Should you miss this deadline please send your child with a packed lunch for the first week of term.**
- **Ecowild** - It is the turn of Class 2 to enjoy Ecowild next term. An information letter has been sent home.
- **Library Service** - Please see the following [link](#) relating to all that is happening in our local libraries.
- **Music Lessons** - Music for Schools & BANES Music Lessons start back week commencing Monday 9th January.
- **Santa Dash** - we raised a whopping £1548.10 in aid of the Air Ambulance - amazing! Thank you! In the New Year a small presentation will be given to them at the Celebration Assemblé on Friday 27th January. Further details will be posted here.
- **School Vision Survey** - Please check your inboxes or Spam for an email from us yesterday regarding a short survey to obtain your views - the deadline is December 23rd.
- **St. John's Church** - See [here](#) the link to the weekly church events. Please also join us on Saturday 24th Dec at 3pm for the Christingle Service at St John's Farrington.
- **Swimming** - Class 4 will enjoy swimming from next Tuesday. Please refer to the letter sent home.



## Diary Dates

New dates and amendments in blue

### January 2023

Tue 3rd	INSET Day
Wed 4th	Children return to school
Mon 9th	After School Clubs begin Girls' Football Tournament
Tue 10th	Class 4 Swimming
Wed 11th	Young Voices Choir (Birmingham) Class 2 Ecowild
Thurs 12th	Woodwind lessons start
Fri 13th	Keyboard/Strings lessons start Vision and Values Day Celebration Assembly
Wed 25th	Y5/6 Badminton Tournament at Wellsway School
Fri 27th	Celebration Assembly



## *Friends of Farrington Gurney School*

We really hope you enjoyed the Carols by Candlelight on Monday evening. There was a beautiful atmosphere bringing together the school and village communities. It was fantastic to see so many people there, thank you so much for your support. We raised a total of £490, which is absolutely amazing.

Just a few thank yous to the following...

- Paul McEvoy (farm shop butcher) for donating all the meat.
- Tesco for donating the rolls (and mince pies for nativities), thanks also to Marcia Howe for helping organise this.
- Sam Clements for arranging the mulled cider.
- Gary Johnstone for cooking and serving all the food.
- All those who helped to organise / volunteered to help on the night. Too many to mention but you know who you are!!!!

We wish you all a lovely Christmas and New year.



## Thought of the Week

**'For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.' (2 Corinthians 4:6)**

We are all naturally drawn to light. Whether it is catching some rays on a sunny day, or turning on lamps to make a room feel cosy, or lighting up our homes at Christmas - we all love light.



The Christmas story is full of light. The shepherds were greeted by the angels and the glory of God was shining all around them. The magi followed a star, lighting their path to the new baby. At Christmas time, many people make and light lanterns or sometimes Christingles. Each

Christingle is topped with a candle, signifying Jesus as the light of the world.



Immaculate Conception With Saints (cropped) - Piero Di Cosimo (c. 1485-1505)

In today's painting, we see the Christian concept of the immaculate conception taking place. The Holy Spirit, signified by the dove, alighting on Mary with a spark of light in his beak - God Most High overshadowing Mary meaning 'the holy one to be born will be the Son of God' (Luke 1:35).

Again, we see light - the divine spark of light, brightness from above bathing both the Holy Spirit and Mary in light. No wonder Jesus is referred to as the 'Light of the World'.

Jesus is also referred to as Emmanuel, which literally means 'God with Us'. For Christians, the Holy Spirit is like God being with us in our hearts and through him we can have divine revelation of who God is, displayed in the face of Christ.

While on earth, Jesus displayed the glory of God. After the shepherds had seen him, they went off to tell everyone about what they had been told by the angels. When the magi saw the child, it was then that they bowed down and worshipped him. When Jesus was a man, there was a moment when he was transfigured and 'his face shone like the sun' (Matthew 17:2). For many, this just shows that Jesus was literally God on Earth - God with us - God in human form.

If this is the case, then surely this is why Christmas matters so much to Christians. We are all drawn to light, so why not be drawn to the light of the world? We all want light to shine in dark places, so why not allow God to shine in the dark places in our lives and in our world?

I hope and pray that this Christmas time you may find the knowledge of God and his glory as it is displayed in the face of Christ.