



All the staff at the school would like to wish you a very 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year'. We hope you get to enjoy the break and remain safe and healthy. A huge thank you as always to all of you for the support you give us as a school and also to your children who have been so well-behaved and hard-working through these exceptional times. We all hope that as 2021 develops we will be able to start returning to the normality that we are used to.

We would like to say goodbye to Ella (Reception) and Oliver (Year 4) who are moving house. We wish them both the best and look forward to hearing how they are getting on.

Finally, I would just like to send you best wishes and festive greetings from all of us at Farrington Gurney.

Mr Turull

Notices

- **COVID-19** – please email us in the next few days should any of your children at our school test positive for Covid-19. We have to contact Public Health England of all positive cases up to and including Christmas Eve.
- **Breakfast Club** – Please can we ask that you make your bookings asap so we can plan for food purchases.
- **Christmas Jumper Day** – raised £72.10 for Save the Children – many thanks for all the donations.
- **Clubs** – The clubs allocation list has been sent out with this newsletter for Term 3. Clubs start back on 11th January. For those who have chosen Football and Multisports, please remember to book and pay directly with Premier Sports (£20/5 sessions).
- **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 (Wed – Fri). Please ideally book for the whole term.
- **Music Lessons** – BANES Music (strings & keyboard) will commence in school Friday 8th January. Music for Schools who deliver Woodwind lessons will contact families regarding their lessons.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service link: <https://mailchi.mp/65e242aa8b82/paulton-benefice-zoom-service-13088259>

Online Pantomime (message from the Great British Pantomime Company)

We really hope that the staff and pupils all enjoyed the pantomime? We know that there are a lot of siblings and families that would have been told about the show after the pupils got home and that gave us an idea...

We would love as many people as possible to get their panto fix this year and not miss out so, we thought it would be a great idea to give your school a 50% discount code that you would allow parents and staff to watch the show at home. This stream would give a full 48 hours to enjoy the pantomime as many times as they would like and are only limited by the number of people they can fit on their sofas! All of this for a special Farrington Gurney price of £7.50!

Your discount code is: GOLDILOCKS50OFFFARRINGTONGURNEY. The discount code will only be available until Wednesday 23rd December, 2020.

All they need to do is;

- Visit www.thegreatbritishpantomimecompany.com
- Click 'Book Your Tickets Now - General/Subtitled Performance' - this links to our Vimeo page
- Click 'Rent Now' and begin to purchase the stream as normal
- Before making payment you will see the 'redeem voucher' section - enter the Farrington Gurney discount code which will calculate their discounted price.
- Finalise the payment and sit down and enjoy the Pantomime!



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

The Christmas Window Trail is happening this weekend; you may have seen some decorated windows throughout the village. There are over 30 displays! Maps are available at the Farm Shop and the Old Parsonage for a £2 donation. Votes for the best window to be sent to fogfs@hotmail.com

Thanks to Berry Barn and Mini Moos for their shopping night last week - almost £30 was raised and they are keen to work with us again for future events. Thank you everyone who came and shopped!

There are still a few items of uniform available at bargain prices - please see the FB page for the latest details. We will have details of new items in the New Year.

We'll arrange our next meeting in January/early February when we have a clearer idea of how we can meet.

Thanks to everyone for helping us to support the school with supplies and activities for the children. We contributed towards new books for Key Stage 2 and provided the pantomime and crackers for the Christmas lunch yesterday.

FARRINGTON GURNEY CHRISTMAS WINDOW TRAIL
19th and 20th December 2020
Maps available from Farrington Farm Shop & The Old Parsonage
£2 suggested donation
Vote for your favourite display!
1 map = 1 vote and 1 entry into draw to win one of these exciting prizes:
* £30 Dan's Ice Creams Voucher
* £20 Spice Dunes Voucher and Hamper
* £25 Farrington Inn Voucher
* Eco Party Pack Hire & Copy of The Happy News
All proceeds to Friends of Farrington Gurney School PTA
Friends of Farrington Gurney School registered charity no. 1034713

Community News

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ST JOHN'S FARRINGTON GURNEY
ST JOHN'S CHURCH BS39 6JW

IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE

Advent and Christmas

twitch Online Service times
Join us online at: [twitch.tv/holytrinitychurchpaulton](https://www.twitch.tv/holytrinitychurchpaulton)

-Traditional Carol Service: Sun 20th Dec 6pm
-Family Christingle Service Thurs 24th Dec 3pm
-Midnight Service: Thurs 24th Dec 11.30pm

In light of the current Tier 2 restrictions we have decided that we will deliver our Christmas services services online only. Let's celebrate Christmas safely this year.

PAULTON-BENEFICE.ORG.UK

School Diary Dates

December 2020

Fri 18th Term 2 ends
**Sat 19th/
Sun 20th** Farrington Gurney Christmas Trail

January 2021

Mon 4th INSET Day
Tue 5th INSET Day
Wed 6th Term 3 begins
Fri 8th Year 6 Playground Pentathlon
Wed 13th EcoWild begins (Class 3 for Term 3)
Thu 14th Dance begins (Class 1 and Class 2 in separate groups for Term 3)

The Height, Weight, Hearing and Vision for Reception children originally planned for Thursday 7th January has now been rescheduled to Wednesday 3rd March



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

Is there a present you're really looking forward to receiving this year? Maybe there's a present under the tree waiting for you to unwrap, or maybe you've found a gift hidden away somewhere with your name on it. Or maybe someone hasn't bought that all important present yet. Well, they've got six shopping days left, so they'd better hurry up!

Why do we give gifts at Christmas? There has been a tradition of gift giving for centuries, dating back to Roman times, when people feasted and gave gifts in honour of the god Cronos during a festival known as Saturnalia (it even sounds Roman). Wealthy people would pay a month's rent for those who couldn't afford it, masters and servants would swap clothes and people would receive gifts of dolls, candles and...wait for it...caged birds.

Many people also associate giving presents as a reminder of the gifts that the wise men brought for baby Jesus – gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is one of the reasons that billions of people give presents at Christmas, but it's not the only reason.

Around the time Jesus was born, the Jewish people (and many others) were expecting a messiah, a deliverer and saviour who had been foretold in the Old Testament. With the arrival and occupation of the Romans, the Jews were hoping even more that this messiah would come and deliver them from their enemies. But what does the Old Testament tell us this promised saviour would be like. Isaiah, writing over 700 years before Jesus was born, wrote "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Although people were hoping for a great military leader, like King David, to overthrow the Romans, here it clearly says that this child will be a counsellor, a father, a prince of peace and God himself.

Isaiah also tells us that it will be a virgin who conceives and bears this son and he will be called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14). In Micah 5:2 we are told that this saviour will come from Bethlehem, a ruler 'who will shepherd my people Israel'. Psalm 72:10 says 'May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts.' According to Jewish beliefs, this deliverer's ancestors would be Abraham, Jacob and Judah (Genesis 22:18, Numbers 24:17 and Genesis 49:10) and he would be a direct descendant of David (Jeremiah 23:5). If you look at the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus fulfilled all of these predictions (Matthew 1:1-17). Even John, Jesus' cousin, fulfilled the prediction in Malachi 3 that a messenger would precede the Messiah, someone who would 'prepare the way' for him (Malachi 3:1).

So for many people then and many people now, giving gifts is a reminder of the gift of Jesus, someone who didn't come to overthrow the Romans for the Jews, but who came instead to overthrow sin by his death on the cross. This messiah didn't come to save one nation in history from the tyranny of another historical nation, but this messiah came to save the whole world throughout time from punishment and separation from God. Now that's a gift worth receiving!

I pray that you will enjoy a peaceful and blessed Christmas. May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the worship of the wise men and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas time.

