



Christmas Celebrations



We enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner on Wednesday this week with crackers and all the trimmings. Our older children and all the staff stepped in to make sure everyone had plenty to eat and a lovely time. We would like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to Sue, Mrs Coles, Mrs Sheppard, Mrs Stott, Mrs Payne, Mrs Telling and Mrs Harvey who make sure that our lunchtimes run smoothly throughout the entire year.

Lunchtimes this week have also seen the return of our Christmas Grotto where the Year 6 elves have treated the other children in their houses to gifts, refreshments, music and dancing. For the last couple of days, we have even had a visit from Santa!



Although we had to take the difficult decision to cancel our Senior Citizen's Christmas party on Monday due to the risks of spreading seasonal illnesses, it has been really encouraging to see how many local residents are interested in joining up with us at school to sing and celebrate and we are planning to schedule a similar event later on in the Spring.

We finished the term with a fantastic Christmas service where we welcomed many parents and families to St John's Church. As well as some fantastic singing we also said farewell to Mrs Glover, who is leaving today. We all wish her the very best in her new role and would like to thank her again for all her time at our school.

Governors' Cup

Congratulations to both Thorin in Year 2 and Amelia in Year 5 who were the worthy recipients of this term's Governors' Cup. They have both consistently demonstrated our school values, have been caring and thoughtful to those around them and have behaved superbly in class and around the school.



Merry Christmas

Finally, we would like to wish everyone in the Farrington Gurney community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope you all have a peaceful and enjoyable break and we will look forward to welcoming the children back in school on Tuesday 6th January.

Mrs Geeson and Mr Turull



Arbor & School Grid

Thank you to all those who have already signed up and booked their school meals on SchoolGrid; the deadline for next term is midnight, Thursday 1st January

- **Dinners: any money remaining will be transferred to your SchoolGrid dinner account for Term 3**
 - Clubs for Terms 3 & 4: are now available to book on Arbor
 - **Breakfast Club: Sessions MUST be booked in advance & by midnight, Thursday 1st January**
 - **Year 4 & Year 6 Residential Trips: remaining payments have been transferred to Arbor**
 - **Please check & retrieve any money sat in credit in your ParentPay accounts**
 - Contact details, dietary & medical information; please ensure you check the data on Arbor over the break
- If you have any problems please email the office.**

Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy on our Local Governing Body (LGB). The LGB is made up of Governors from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, and they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school. You do not need to have any experience or prior knowledge, as training will be offered. We would be delighted to hear from you; please contact Mrs Hazard (Governance Professional) or Mr Lynn (Chair of Governors) for more details.

Apprenticeship Vacancy

We will be looking to advertise a vacancy for an Apprentice Teaching Assistant in January. If you know anyone who would be interested, please ask them to email the office. office@farrington.mnsp.org.uk

Notices

- **Admission Application for Reception in September 2026** - deadline is 15th January 2026.
- **Clubs** - These start on Monday 12th January and can be booked via Arbor now (see last week's newsletter).
- **FSM Christmas Voucher Letter** - was sent to FSM families via email on Tuesday.
- **Safeguarding Alert** - The children's book series "According to Humphrey" contain a weblink which has been compromised and leads to inappropriate and unsafe material that should not be accessed by children. Please see the email we sent to parents yesterday for more information regarding this.
- **School Dinners** - SchoolGrid is now ready to take Term 3 orders (the allergens menu has now been uploaded).
- **Seal Swimming** - next term it is the turn of Seal Class to swim. Please see ParentPay to consent/pay.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.

Diary Dates

January

Mon 5th	INSET Day
	Deadline for Club choices using Arbor
Tue 6th	Term 3 begins for children
	Seal Class first swimming lesson
	Small Schools Athletics Tournament, Wellsway (Year 5/6 Parents have been sent a google form)
Wed 7th	Reading and spelling update for Year 2 parents, 3:15 in Shark Class
Mon 12th	Clubs start this week
Fri 16th	Celebration Assembly (9am in the Memorial Hall)

Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

A place where all can flourish, find fulfilment and experience life in all its fullness

Newsletter 15 - December 19th 2025



Friends and Community News

From all of us at Friends we would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas 🌲 We look forward to 2026 and some exciting events for the children. As ever if anyone would like to join our amazing team, we would love to have some new faces.



Please see here the [link](#) for Picture News for Parents

Hello!

Welcome to the Autumn term's edition of Picture News for Parents – a newsletter that helps you stay updated with your school's news coverage, and shares support for handling current affairs and media literacy at home.

Picture News Recap!



West of England
MUSIC & ARTS

DISCOVERY DAYS

at WEMA Music Centres

Our free-of-charge Discovery Days are the perfect chance to try out our Music Centres, meet new friends, and experience the fun of playing in an ensemble. Bring your enthusiasm and see where music can take you!

Ensembles available for a wide variety of instruments, ages and playing levels.

Sign up using the QR code or visit:
wema.org.uk/wema-music-centres

DISCOVERY DAYS
MUSIC & ARTS
PLAYING TOGETHER

FREE REGISTRATION

LITTLE LAMBS NURSERY
Where Little Lambs Learn and Play

GUARANTEED PLACES

New children's Nursery opening **January 2026** at **Farrington Gurney.**

- **Guaranteed Places** for Jan-Apr Starts
- **NO Registration Fee** or Deposit for Jan-Apr Starts
- Farm Setting with Fully Qualified and Caring Team

Register or book a tour!

LittleLambsNursery.co.uk
info@littl lambsnursery.co.uk

Christmas Lego Club
Timsbury Library

Saturday 20th December 10-12pm
Tuesday 30th December 2-4pm

FREE bus travel for kids

...is back for the holidays
20 December – 4 January

WEST

This festive season, under 16's can travel for free on most buses starting in the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, of B&NES, South Gloucestershire & Bristol from 20/12 - 04/01

Holiday Activities: Christmas Crafts

20, 22 and 23 December 2025, 10.30am–3.30pm

Get the holidays off to a festive start with our fun family workshops! Make decorations for your home this Christmas using natural materials from the Cathedral gardens.

Saturday 20 December
Festive Foliage
Make a festive table decoration using greenery from the Cathedral gardens.

Monday 22 December
Willow Christmas
Use Somerset willow to make a festive decoration.

Tuesday 23 December
Driftwood Angels
Use driftwood and other found and re-used materials to make an angel decoration.

Admission **FREE** with adult entry. No need to book – simply drop in on the day! Plan your visit online at wells cathedral.org.uk/holidays

Standard adult admission tickets include re-entry for 12 months from date of purchase, so you can enjoy access to a number of seasonal events, including exhibitions, and Family Holiday Activities beyond your initial visit. Please note that children must be accompanied.



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 Cor 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.

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.



Immaculate Conception with Saints - Piero di Cosimo (c.1485-1505)