



Welcome Back

The children arrived back to school yesterday clearly refreshed and enjoying seeing their friends and teachers after the Christmas break, which was much needed after a very long term.

People often wonder what happens on an INSET Day. These professional development days are key in moving our school forward, and the teaching staff enjoyed meeting up with other staff from across the Trust to share ideas and good practice. The focus of the INSET Day was English writing and grammar.

We came away both reassured that we are in a good place with the way we teach all aspects of the English curriculum, as well as energised to try some of the ideas gleaned from our local schools.

Baby News

Congratulations to Mrs Oates and her husband Liam on the safe arrival of baby Poppy who arrived just before Christmas (on the 22nd December) weighing a healthy 6lb 14oz.



Outcomes

Whilst we pride ourselves on the variety of experiences we offer our children during their time with us, (trips, visits, wellness days, residential, sports events, live performances etc) it can't be understated that we also prepare our children well academically for their onward journey into secondary school.

We have a proven track record of academic excellence, both in terms of the percentage of children who achieve age-related expectations and the progress made by all children regardless of their starting points.

We are pleased to share that last year we ranked 2nd place in BANES for the SATs results achieved by our Year 6 children. Reflecting on the children from last year's Year 6 cohort, it was clear that they were intrinsically motivated to do their best and were well prepared and supported by the staff in school to reach their own individual goals. They should be rightly proud of their achievements.

Mr Dix and Mr Turull

Notices

- **Breakfast Club** - Please book your places for this term via ParentPay.
- **Clubs** - Please see [here](#) the link to the club allocation list. There is still availability in many clubs and all clubs start next week.
- **Keyboard & Woodwind Lessons** - lessons start again next week.
- **Library events** - see [here](#) the link for exciting events happening in our libraries.
- **Reception 2024 Closing Date:** The application closing date is Monday 15th January 2024.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **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](#)

January 2024

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Tue 9th | Swimming for Seal Class - remember kit |
| Fri 12th | Celebration Assembly (9:15am Village Hall) |
| Fri 12th | 3:15pm Year 6 parents SATS/Camp meeting in Dolphin Class |
| Tue 16th | Year 4 Residential Meeting in the Church Hall at High Littleton Primary School from 4.30-5:00pm. |
| Thu 18th | Stay and Cafe Assembly in Church (9:15am) |
| Fri 26th | Celebration Assembly (9:15am Village Hall) |

A message regarding the Christingle Collection

We would like to let you know that donations to the Children's Society amounted to £280 following our Christingle Service...thank you to all the children and parents who contributed... The church service was packed to overflowing, a lovely start to Christmas... and lots of collecting candles returned full of coppers and more.....many, many thanks for support from school.....wishing you all a successful term.....

Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter 15 - January 5th 2024



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"Our son really enjoys playing his Cornet and we are very grateful to the tutor and all at MFSF for giving him the opportunity to start learning and for helping him to do so well."

Instrument Hire and Purchase packages are available, both with 'opt out' clauses, in case your child does not take to learning.

To find out more about our tuition and to enrol your child, please visit our website

www.mfsf.org.uk

If you have any questions, our friendly Head Office team are always on hand. Give us a call on 0345 375 2466 or email us at info@mfsf.org.uk.

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Gain skills and experience for work through volunteering with a range of charities in different sectors.

Many opportunities can lead to paid work and charities can offer references for future employers.



Wednesday 31st
January



Bath Central
Library



10am - 12pm



FREE

Drop in to this **FREE** event
to talk to local charities offering volunteering opportunities.



EmploymentSkills_Pod@bathnes.gov.uk



www.achieveinbathnes.co.uk



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ENGLAND**
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Improving People's Lives

**ACHIEVE IN
B&NES**

The Employment and Skills Pod is funded and managed by the West of England Combined Authority, led by Metro Mayor Dan Norris, and delivered by Bath and North East Somerset Council in partnership with Skills Connect.

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For immediate, life-threatening emergencies always call 999

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**Does your child
suffer with
sleep issues?**

Do you struggle
with your child's
bedtime?

Will your child
not sleep in
their own bed?

WE CAN HELP

03303 530 541
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am



Thought of the Week

'But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 3:13)



As one comes to a close and another approaches, before we begin to make all of our plans and set all of our goals for the upcoming year, we ought to take some time to settle with the year that has just finished and tie up whatever loose ends we have. We should desire to go into the new year with confidence, grace, and healed hearts.

One of the most difficult things about changing seasons is leaving the past behind us and moving forward to what lies ahead, like our verse this week. This can be hard to do, especially if we've had a hard year and are struggling to feel positive about what might be next. And yet, even when things have been so sweet, we can be uncertain of the coming season – will it threaten the peace and happiness we've come to enjoy? Looking to the future means looking to the unknown.

Either way, Christians know that through Christ, all things are possible. That means that no matter what the past year held for you, Christ is able to walk alongside you to help you to move forward in your life. This doesn't mean that we should push our feelings and thoughts aside in an attempt to hurry and get over them for the sake of a new year. Rather, we have to be willing to let go of control and allow Christ to reign and rule over our lives, submitting to his authority and plan, and trust him to help us in whatever way we need while we move forward.

Take some time between now and next week to think through your 2023. Take note of the

condition of your heart and why it is in the current shape that it's in. You may find it helpful to talk to God or someone else about last year and how you are feeling about it and also how you are feeling about 2024.

Here is a small prayer that you may like to pray as you reflect on last year and prepare your heart and mind for this new year:

A Prayer of Reflection for the New Year

My Father Who is in Heaven, Hallowed be your name. I thank you for the caring and keeping of my heart, my mind, and my body last year. I know that many of the events that have transpired over the course of 2023 may have been a surprise to me, but none of them were a surprise to you.

I bless your name because you are holy and worthy of my trust. Therefore, I rest in your goodness and I ask that you would heal the parts of me that need it, and protect the parts of me that are whole and pure.

I walk into this new year with open arms, knowing that you have a bright hope and a future for me. I leave this year knowing that you cause all things to work together for my good, because I love you and have been called according to your purposes.

Have your way, oh Lord and wherever you lead me, I will follow! For I pray this in your son Jesus' precious and mighty name, Amen.

(Britnee Bradshaw - ibelieve.com)

