



Term 3 is well under way now and we are really pleased to be able to continue to offer our children a range of curriculum activities during the week. Class 4 have started swimming lessons this term and will carry on with them until Easter, handing over to Class 3 for the summer term. Unfortunately the pool are not teaching Reception children as part of their swimming offer this year, but the children in Ms Mason's class will get that opportunity next year when they move up to Year 1. Class 3 have started EcoWild, which Mr Dix mentions below, and Classes 1 and 2 have the expert coaching of Martin Phillips, as they start learning football skills. All of which are wonderful additions to the classroom learning our children receive.

As well as this, we are really excited that the Dance Umbrella is returning in 2022, albeit initially just for one night. This means our Year 5 and 6 children have the opportunity to take to the stage at Bath Forum at the end of March to perform in front of a packed audience. They have already started work on a dance with Michelle Rochester and we will send out details of how to order tickets in the next week or two. It is an event we are all looking forward to!

Mr Turull

EcoWild

I'm sure you agree that our partnership with ECOWild is a very fruitful one for the children. They get time to explore our environment in many ways, work on many of the 'soft' skills such as sharing, communicating effectively and teamwork without really thinking about it and have time to be creative in using materials within our outdoor area. EcoWild have asked if we could put a call out to parents to send in any unwanted items for them to use: tins, spoons, ladles, whisks, wooden spoons, clean yoghurt pots, bowls and the like for them to use in their 'mud kitchen'. We will put a box by the gate on Monday morning for you to drop off any of these items if you have them.

Allotment

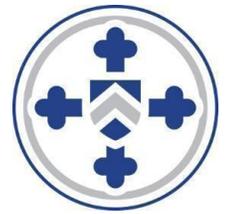
Do we have any parents or friends of the school who can source us some free wooden planks? We need some on the school allotment as edgings to retain soil and bark. Please let Mr Dix or Mrs Hazard in the office know if you are able to help. As you have probably noticed, our wonderful community volunteers have been doing some excellent work making the area tidy and attractive - we will be asking Farrington Forum to input their ideas on how to make this area even more wonderful!

Traffic

We have highlighted on a few occasions the traffic movement around school at the start and end of day in previous newsletters. The email inbox has received further emails this week about near misses, which again we are bringing to your attention. As parents, we all know that our children can easily stray off the path accidentally, even when we are supervising them closely - which again reinforces our message of 'Please slow down and drive with extra caution!'

Our local MP has put our case to the local authority, but as we know, quite often action can take time, therefore, in the meantime, we have requested the support of our beat PC and PCSO to further raise the awareness of this issue.





Notices

- **COVID update** - We have had 1 new case this week among our school community over the week. Please see information below about the new rules for self-isolation.
- **Christian Distinctiveness Parental Survey** - Please complete the following survey regarding your views on our Christian offer:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YowGg17lt37crSxViV6GN3cBj37y6ll3ZPKYTEbqEcY>
- **Clubs** - Cross Country club is cancelled on Monday 17th & 24th as Mr Dix is at sporting fixtures.
- **Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccinations** - Please contact the Virgin Care SPA team on 0300 247 0082 if your child did not have a vaccination in school but you would now like them to. There are clinics at Paulton.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service Link can be found [here](#).

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Thank you to those who supported the Christmas events we organised, including refreshments at the carols by candlelight, the Christmas trail around the village and refreshments at St John's church on the 19th December. **Massive thank you to Laura and her team at Pigtails Hair Studio up at Farrington Farm for raising a spectacular £250 for FOFGS with their Christmas Hamper raffle.**

We hope the coming months will be kinder to us in terms of arranging fundraising events and activities for the children. With that in mind we have a couple of provisional dates for your diaries:

28th January 6-8pm School Disco Friday - Village Hall, providing we have no Covid restrictions in place

11th February time tbc Quiz night (evening)

13th February 11am-2pm Village Hall Table Top sale-cakes!

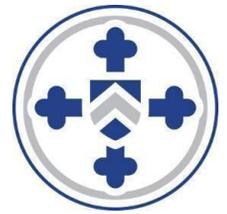
We will be having our next planning meeting on Wednesday 19th January at the Farrington Inn from 8pm. If you would like to help out with fundraising efforts please come along (it's a very relaxed meeting!) or catch one of us at the school. We would like to plan some bigger summer events but we can only do this with more volunteers and input from parents and carers at the school to share the load.

The more events we can run and fundraise at, the more money will be in the pot to support activities like the recent pantomime trip, and contributions towards school developments such as the new library and school allotment, all of which have a huge benefit to the well-being of our children.

Diary Dates

January

Monday 17th	Year 5 and 6 Sportshall Athletics Tournament (Wellsway School) No Cross Country Club
Tuesday 18th	Class 4 Swimming; Classes 1 and 2 Football
Wednesday 19th	Class 3 EcoWild Year 6 Height and Weight Measurement FOFGS Meeting - Farrington Inn 8pm ALL warmly welcome
Monday 24th	Year 5 and 6 Badminton Tournament (Wellsway School) No Cross Country Club



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

At school, the Christian value we are focusing on this term is perseverance. I think at the start of new year, this value can be quite appropriate. It is often hard for many of us to come back after a relatively relaxing break (relatively because the break is often dependent on the "relatives"!) and get stuck back into working and learning and homework. By reminding ourselves of the importance of perseverance, it will hopefully give us all the boost we need to "keep on keeping on".

Many of the children who have been back in school seem to be taking perseverance on board and many have adopted a good work ethic as they settle back into school life. This is encouraging and it is great to see so many of them enjoying their learning and being glad to be back.

Although this is the case for most of us most of the time, we all have those days when it can be harder to persevere and to keep on going. Maybe there's a job or task that is proving more difficult than we first thought. Maybe we're finding it hard working together with a difficult colleague. Maybe we just didn't sleep very well the night before.

Whatever the reason, we can all have "off days" (and sometimes "off weeks") and it's then that being told to "keep on keeping on" or to persevere with whatever we have to do isn't necessarily the message we want to hear.

It's then that we need to stop and allow ourselves a moment to reflect. We need to remind ourselves that it's ok not to be ok and that sometimes we're just not up to dealing with it all.

Our school vision focuses around three words – Fulfilment, Forgiveness and Foundation. We are often being reminded of the importance of forgiveness – how it benefits the forgiver as well as the one who is forgiven. But this includes forgiving ourselves. We are often harder on ourselves than we are on others and when things don't go according to plan, we're the person we blame and hold accountable.

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, reminded his readers of the importance of forgiveness.

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.' (Ephesians 4:32)

This includes being kind, compassionate and forgiving to yourself as well as other people.

So this week, whether it's going well, or not so well, don't forget to be kind to yourself, to show yourself some compassion and to forgive yourself when it goes a bit wrong. Not only will you hopefully feel better, but it will enable you to be kind, compassionate and forgiving to those around you.

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