



Welcome Back - News from our Classes

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week. In Tuesday's assembly, we talked about how 'working hard' is one of our school's golden rules, and so many children across the school have been going the extra mile this week with lots of visitors to the office to show their excellent work. We have seen some great writing from Turtle Class, and they have been taking advantage of the cold weather and have explored cold places, learning about animals that live there. They also planned and set up ice investigations. Shark Class have started learning about the concept of multiplication and enjoyed building paper aeroplanes just like the main character in their class book. Seal Class enjoyed their first swimming session on Tuesday and have been learning about desktop publishing in ICT. Dolphin Class have started learning about mountains and how they are made as well as looking at playground design in DT.



Small Schools Athletics Tournament

On Tuesday after school, we took a small team to Wellsway School for an indoor athletics competition. They did brilliantly, giving every event their fullest effort and were extremely supportive of one another, both through encouragement and making sure they all felt confident with the activities they were doing. Well done to the boys team: Reuben B, Toby, Charlie, Harry, Ruben D. and particularly Albie L who stepped in to help with our team numbers. Also a special well done to Tabby and Olivia who had to work extra hard as the only girls on our team!



Papaya Talk - Helping Families Thrive in the Digital Age

Thank you very much to all the families who responded to the requests for information about the best time and method for a parent information session on 'empowering parents with practical insights and expert guidance to support children's wellbeing in a digital world.' We are pleased to say that the session for parents will be held online on Monday 26th January at 7pm as this was the most popular option. It will be a very useful and informative session and we would encourage as many parents, carers and interested relatives to attend as possible. Further information and the link for the session can be found [here](#), and we will send out reminders nearer the time. There will also be Key Stage 2 workshops run by Papaya in school the previous week.



Arbor & School Grid Helpful Reminders



School Grid - is for booking (& paying - KS2) for meals ONLY

Arbor - is for everything else (clubs, trips, breakfast club, pupil details inc. medical/diaries)

- Contact details, dietary & medical information; please check the data on Arbor if you did not over the break

Dinners and Breakfast Club deadline is Thursday midnight for the following week : please contact the office for ad-hoc last minute changes or additions

Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship Vacancy

We are advertising a vacancy for an Apprentice Teaching Assistant. Please share this [link](#) with anyone who would be interested. The deadline for applications is Friday 23rd January.

Governor Vacancy - Farrington Gurney & Clutton Primary Schools

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 are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school. You do not need experience or prior knowledge, as training will be offered. If you know anyone who may be interested, we would be delighted to hear from them; please contact Mrs Hazard (Governance Professional).

Notices

- **Admission Application for Reception in September 2026 - deadline is 15th January 2026.**
- **Clubs** - These start next week. Lego Club is full now; however there are still spaces available in the Art Workshop, Maths Games, Creative Writing, Drawing Club, Singing Club, Musical Theatre Club. Please register via Arbor. If you have any queries relating to signing up via Arbor, please let me know. All places
- **Seal Swimming** - please contribute via Arbor for next week's transport to MSN pool if you have not already. Thank you to those who have.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.

Diary Dates

January

Mon 12th	Clubs start this week
Fri 16th	Celebration Assembly (9am in the Memorial Hall)
Wed 21st	KS2 Papaya Workshops
Mon 26th	Parent Papaya Workshop On-line (7-8pm)
Thu 29th	Y5/6 Badminton Event (3:45-5:45pm - details to follow)
Fri 30th	Celebration Assembly (9am in the Memorial Hall)

February

Wed 4th	Family Service at St. Johns Church (2:45pm)
Wed 11th	Y5/6 Gymnastics Event at Writhlington (12:30-3pm)



Friends and Community News

Happy New Year, just to let everyone know we are meeting at Farrington inn on Monday 12th at 8pm, we'd love to see some new faces.



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



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES w/c January 12 2026

Bath Central Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

10.30 - 11.00am
Wednesday
(term-time only)

Relaxed Storytime, with Booktrust
Relaxed Storytime for children with autism or sensory needs. Held in our sensory space. Please book via eventbrite

Thursday 15 January
10.30 - 11.30am

Keynsham Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

9.30 - 10.00am &
10.30 - 11.00am
Tuesday
(term-time only)

Storytime
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

10.30 - 11.00am
Thursday
(term-time only)

Midsomer Norton Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

10.30 - 11.00am
Monday
(term-time only)

Storytime
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

10.30 - 11.00am
Wednesday
(term-time only)

Board Game Saturdays

Drop in. Suitable for all ages.

Every Saturday
10.00 - 12.30pm

Mobile Library

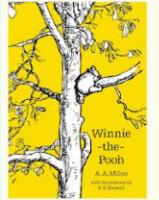
The Mobile Library may stop near you! Pop in for a visit, return your books, collect a reservation & choose something new to read. You can do all this & more with your B&NES or LibrariesWest library card.

For the Route Timetable, please visit:
<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/mobile-library-service>

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Here's what is happening in your Libraries this week

Library News:
On 18 January it is Winnie-the-Pooh Day. It has been 100 years since Winnie-the-Pooh was published. A book about a honey-lovin' bear and all his friends in 100 Arce wood.



MIDSOMER NORTON DRAMA CLUB

Mondays @ The Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2UH

Fun • Games • Teamwork • Creative Skills
Show Making • Confidence Building • New Friends

Ages

6 - 13 Year olds

Time

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Free Trial
for all!!



For more info:
07861 222187
info@rachelcohen.org
www.rachelcohen.org



Please see [here](#) the link for the sendias newsletter aimed at young people.



Five Rivers Fostering

We are looking for Foster Carers in Gloucestershire & surrounding areas

If you are interested in a life-changing vocation and can provide a safe, loving home to a child in care, we'd love to hear from you.

0333 0603 962 | five-rivers.org/fostering

Join a local Social Enterprise and a community of foster carers providing long and short-term care for children. Round the clock support and specialist training. Potential to combine with full or part-time work. Highly competitive fostering allowance of up to £28,000 a year, tax-free



Foster with us
Foster carers turn children's lives around



Thought of the Week

'When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.' (Matthew 2:10-11)



Visit Of The Three Wise Men - Jesus Mafa (1973)

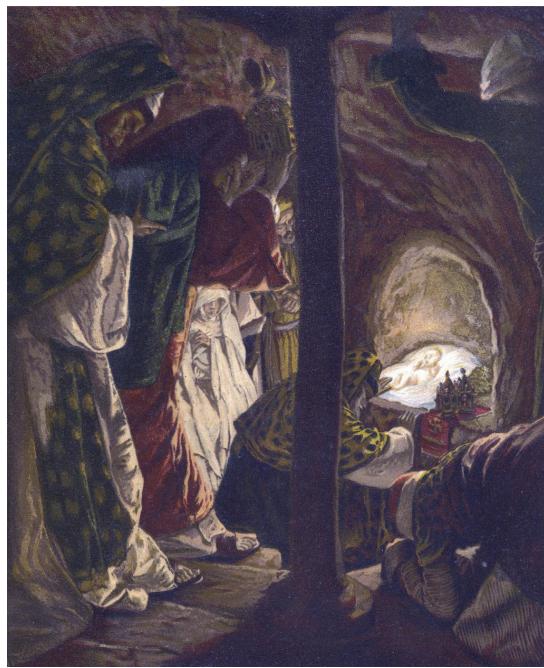
The gifts all held significance though and as people who studied the stars and read about prophecies from different ancient cultures, they would have known about a promised Messiah after studying the Old Testament texts.

Although Christmas is finished, early January is the traditional time when Epiphany is celebrated. In many countries around the world, the three magi or kings are remembered and people celebrate how a star led them to Jesus. 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word 'to reveal' as it is seen as the time that Jesus was revealed to the world. Children often receive gifts during Epiphany to remind them of the gifts the wise men gave Jesus.

But what of those gifts? They seem a bit unusual, don't they? Not the sorts of gifts you'd give a child.



The Adoration Of The Kings - Zanobi Strozzi (1433-34)



The Adoration Of The Magi - James Tissot (1886-94)

Gold was one of the gifts. I suppose at least Mary and Joseph could have sold it to buy things they actually needed!

But giving Jesus gold was referring to him as the promised king.

Frankincense was an oil that was even more precious than gold. This oil could be made into a perfume which was said to have 'a heavenly scent' or a 'divine aroma'. This was meant to signify that Jesus was coming as a holy leader, or priest, guiding people towards God. It could have also meant that he was God himself.

Finally myrrh. This was said to have medicinal properties, but it could also be used to create an exquisite perfume. Myrrh, though, was used most commonly to anoint the dead. These wise men would have read the prophecies explaining that this promised messiah, king, priest and Son of God would also become a sacrifice, to take the punishment in place of everyday people.

This is why for Christians all over the world, the visit of the magi is so significant, because they gave gifts that explained so clearly who Jesus was and what he came to do.