



We will continue to produce our weekly newsletter to give you the most relevant information throughout this lockdown. Please also keep an eye out on our Twitter feed and school website where we will add content from children's learning like we did in the first two lockdowns. If you don't have a twitter account and you decide to sign up, our handle is @fgprimary.

We have been very impressed both with the effort of children learning at home and the attitude of those in school. Thank you for your time in supporting home learning; please remember there are always school staff available to help you should you need it. We now have a rota of staff in school to reduce the amount of people on site, so each class has one member of staff in the classroom overseeing learning and another at home, either teaching live lessons, responding to work submitted or replying to queries on emails.

There have been conflicting messages sent out from the Government, but given that cases have risen quite steeply in our local area – indeed some local doctors' surgeries have sent out notice of this to patients – we really must ask parents of children attending school to consider if your child really needs to be on site and if so, whether there are any days when they could be working at home instead. Some Trust schools have had to limit provision to families who have two key workers, both working away from the home setting and although this is not something we need to do, we must stress again that school attendance this term should be a last resort. If you are able to reduce the amount of days your child is attending, then please let the office know. For example, we currently have 10 pupils in Class 2 some days and although we encourage and facilitate hand washing and social distancing at all times, the children are obviously at less risk of contracting the virus if they are at home with you.

Mr Turull

Remote Learning Update

Thank you for bearing with us as we get to grips with remote learning for all our children. We have now loaned out all available IT to families to ensure equity of access during this lockdown. We are proud as a school that children, whether in school or at home, are receiving the same educational experience. Whilst nothing replaces face-to-face teaching, we are working hard to ensure children continue to make progress - and thank you for the huge efforts you are making to support this.

A couple of thoughts:

- Please ensure your child is in a family space during sessions for safeguarding reasons (ie: not in their bedrooms).
- Uploading work is probably the trickiest part - please try to ensure the work is uploaded into the correct day. (Guidance on how to do this is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STRgCq-yVaQ>)

Mr Dix

Notices

- **COVID-19 – please email us should any of your children test positive for Covid-19.**
- **Breakfast Club** – Due to lockdown, breakfast club will not be running and all bookings have been cancelled for you.
- **Dinners** – As per our email earlier this week all children attending school may now book school dinners via ParentPay with the revised simple menu. Please refer to the email for choices as these supersede what is on ParentPay please book either Main or vegetarian.
- **Free Fruit** – there is no free fruit at the moment. Children attending school can bring a healthy item to eat at break time if they wish.
- **Free School Meals Voucher Scheme** – for those who qualify, the voucher scheme will recommence next week for the rest of Term 3. You will be emailed when the vouchers have been raised ready for you to redeem. Please note this is not a scheme for Infant Free School Meals, but for those Eligible by Benefit.
- **Primary Admissions** - a reminder to anyone who has a child starting school in September 2021, that today is the deadline for applications.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service link to join Rev Adam Pitt:
<https://mailchi.mp/a4a88f8d30ab/paulton-benefice-zoom-service-13165915>



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

Happy New Year!

It's not the most appropriate expression under the current circumstances. I know many of us were hoping to be able to start this New Year a bit more positively, but things haven't turned out quite the way we hoped.

It is often hard when we are going through a difficult time, to be hopeful. When you are stuck in the middle of a trying situation, it often feels like it will always be like this and that there is no way out.

The situation we are all going through at the moment is a bit like this. Will we be allowed out of our homes in February...or March...or August?!! Will it be possible to go on holiday this year? Will we be allowed to meet up with our friends and family again by next Christmas?

All of us go through difficult times and I'm sure you have your own examples. For those of you who can remember your adolescence, there may have been lots of things that you were anxious about. When you were a child, maybe you were really worried about your school work, or sleeping in the dark, or making friends.

But these times do pass, things do improve, they do get better. If I think over the stressful and anxious times I've experienced, these are no longer on my mind. Often they have been replaced by other worrying things, but I know that these too will pass.

I'm reminded of a verse in the Bible - Psalm 30 verse 5.

Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

The troubling things we go through will often last more than a night, but they will come to an end at some point and there will be a time of joy and happiness when the difficult experience is over. We will be allowed out of our houses, we will be able to go on holiday again and we will be able to see and hug our family and friends.

There is hope. Things will improve. I pray that as we persevere and continue to follow the restrictions, that we will remain hopeful and know that there will be a better tomorrow.

