



## Voices for Life

As you may have seen on our social media account, we had a singing charity called Voices for Life in school on Monday. They taught the children a fun song and recorded the children to be part of a video clip they will send to British Olympic squad ahead of this year's Paris Games.



## Inspiring Quotes

Our student teacher Miss Singleton starts the day with inspiring quotes to set the day off with positivity. It is worth sharing a couple of quotes the children then wrote themselves along a similar vein:

*If someone tells you 'you can't' they are showing you their limits, not yours!*

*If you do kind things, they will always come back round to help you sometime.*

*The difference between a master and a beginner is that the master has failed more times than the beginner has ever tried.*

*Everyone has a beautiful smile - so keep on smiling.*

Well done to Rhys and Evelyn for these wise words!

## Parent Survey 2022-23 Update

This week we are reviewing our second main area of concern from last year's Parent Survey:

**Concern 2 was about behaviour in school.**

We set out to bring better all-round clarity to the school's behaviour policy for staff, children and parents - this included clearer steps as behaviours escalate (the 'strike' system) and the involvement of parents at a much earlier stage.

The main outcomes have been two-fold: Firstly that general behaviour in class and around school has improved allowing the vast majority of children to be able to learn without disruption, and secondly that it has meant we have been able to more clearly identify some children who may have additional unmet needs and therefore require further support to be able to have the best school experience for themselves. We have been more able to call in specialist support for a number of children - despite the system around referring children being under extreme stress due to chronic underfunding. These changes have led to open communication that has helped a number of our children take greater ownership of their actions.

The Trust Director of Primary Education said that, during her visit recently, the behaviour was very good in classes and that children were all engaged in their learning.

## This Week's Learners of the Week

Compassionate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Henry R</li> <li>Esme T</li> <li>Thomas W</li> </ul>
Agile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Megan C</li> <li>Heidi</li> <li>Reuben B</li> <li>Holly C</li> </ul>
Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frankie</li> <li>Paris C</li> <li>Alessia R</li> </ul>
Engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eddy P</li> <li>Ella W</li> <li>Ralph P</li> <li>Owen A</li> </ul>

## House Points for Good Manners

Ferentone	Mogg	Gournoy	Azelin
13	27	18	20



## Notices

- **Breakfast Club** - Please book your places for this term via ParentPay.
- **Clubs** - All clubs are running as usual next week.
- **Dance Umbrella Tickets** - KS1 Dance Club & Class 4 - Email will be sent home to confirming the tickets which have been reserved for you.
- **Library events** - see [here](#) the link for exciting events happening in our libraries.
- **Seal Class** - please see email sent today requesting consent regarding Canva Education accounts for computer classes.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Year 4 & Year 6 Residential Trips** - the next instalment is due next week for the both trips.
- **Year 6 Lifeskills Trip** - Please pay/consent for the trip to Lifeskills by January 26th. Thank you.
- **Young Carers** - please click [here](#) to access the Carers Center Bath & North East Somerset.

## Diary Dates

New dates and amendments in blue

### **February 2024**

Fri 2nd	Girls' Football Afternoon (KS2 only) SENDIAS Parent Meeting 3.15pm
Wed 7th	Year 6 Lifeskills Trip
Fri 9th	Celebration Assembly Cancelled (Village Hall boiler being replaced)
Thu 8th	Year 5 Downside Art Day ( <a href="#">consent via ParentPay</a> )
Fri 9th	Last Day of Term 3
Mon 19th	Start of Term 4
<a href="#">Wed 28th</a>	<a href="#">Parent Consultation Sessions (1:30pm - 7:00pm)</a>

### **March 2024**

Mon 18th	Year 6 Residential Week to the Isle of Wight
- Fri 22nd	
Tue 26th	Dance Umbrella (KS1 Dance Club and Dolphin Class 6:30pm)
Thu 28th	Easter Service (9.30-10:30am) End of Term 4

## Pollinator Event Update

You might start to notice a few daffodils and then tulips pop up in the village soon. These were planted thanks to village donations at our pollinator party in July – so if you were one of those generous people, thank you!

Our next event is on February 4<sup>th</sup> between 11 and 3. Kids will get to make seed cakes, parents will get a masterclass in cooking soup—and then get to eat it! We will have a nature walk, a seed swap and a seed giveaway to get everyone thinking about spring. And there are some other local projects we have exciting news about. So do please join us – see the lovely posters Y2 children have made – and let's look forward to flowers.

More detail will be posted on Farrington Gurney We Love You (the Facebook page) and [www.farringtongreen.com](http://www.farringtongreen.com)

## Friends of Farrington Gurney

Last chance to enter a team for the quiz next Friday (2nd Feb). Please let us know by tomorrow evening (26th Jan) if you would like to enter and also confirm drinks requests via email [fofgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fofgs@hotmail.co.uk) See the last few newsletters for full details.

We are also looking forward to our Curry night on 24th Feb. See full info below but please contact any of the PTA team, pop a comment on the "Friends of Farrington" Facebook page or email [fofgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fofgs@hotmail.co.uk) to book tickets. Please note that all tickets must be purchased in advance.

Our PTA meeting is next Wednesday (31st) at 8pm in the Farrington Inn. Everyone is very welcome.



# Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

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

**Newsletter 18 - January 26th 2024**



## Curry Night

**Saturday 24th February**  
Farrington Village Hall — 6pm

**Adults £12**

**Children £6**

### Main

Chicken Tikka Masala/Lamb Jalfrezi/Pea & Paneer Masala

### Sides

Saag Aloo / Onion Bhaji

**All Served with Rice, Naan, Poppadoms.**

**Desserts will be available on the night  
at additional small cost**

### Tickets

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Please contact any of the PTA Team, post a note on the Friends of Farrington Gurney School or email fofgs@hotmail.co.uk

Food will be prepared and cooked by Gary Johnstone  
(Head Chef at Noah's Ark Zoo)



**WELLS CATHEDRAL**

## Family Holiday Activities

EXPLORE • CREATE • DISCOVER

Book online at [wells cathedral.org.uk/holidays](https://wells cathedral.org.uk/holidays)






### Saints and Songbirds

February 2024

**Kick-off half term with our selection of family trails and creative workshops for children:**

**Stitch a Story** Monday 12 February  
Explore some of the incredible Cathedral needlework and embroideries, then create your own design.

**Make a Bird Feeder** Tuesday 13 February  
Help to feed our feathered friends through the hungry gap, play a card game, and go on a Cathedral safari!

**Celebrate the Saints** Wednesday 14 February  
Follow our Saints trail this Valentine's Day! You may not find St Valentine in the Cathedral, but there'll be plenty of lovely crafts on offer!

**Scan to book:**

Or drop in on the day (subject to availability)  
£2.15 per child / £1.10 if eligible for free school meals; accompanying adults FREE  
Please note: children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and only assistance dogs are allowed at our Family Holiday Activities



Bath & North East  
Somerset Council  
Improving People's Lives

### **Benefit Related Free School Meals All School Years**



If you receive any of the benefits listed below, and your child attends a Bath and North East Somerset academy or maintained school, please register for benefit related free school meals.

**Registration** could attract Pupil Premium funding for your child's school, £1455 per Primary pupil and £1035 per Secondary pupil.

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit and have annual household income (as assessed by HMRC) below £16,190
- Working Tax Credit
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under PartV1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Apply online <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Email the team at [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk)

Or call 01225 394317 – please leave a message if you reach our answerphone and we will return your call.



## Voices For Life

### Bath Children's Choir




**I love singing in a group, having fun and feeling part of something special!**

Come along for a free trial session! Email contact [voicesforlife.org.uk](mailto:voicesforlife.org.uk)

**Bath Abbey Song School**  
Saturdays, 9.30am - 10.45am  
6-11 years

Supported by 

Registered Charity in England and Wales number 1191491 [www.voicesforlife.org.uk](http://www.voicesforlife.org.uk) [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/voicesforlifeuk) [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/voicesforlifeuk) [linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/voicesforlifeuk) [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K) Bath Abbey





### Thought of the Week

***"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean."***  
(Matthew 23:27)



Statue of Robbie Burns in New York

Yesterday was Burns' Night, the night when many people in Scotland and around the world remember Robbie Burns. Born in 1759, he is best known for his poetry and is often referred to as the 'national poet of Scotland'. His poem and song 'Auld Lang Syne' is sung all over the world at New Year and he was also responsible for 'A Red, Red Rose', 'A Man's A Man For A' That' and 'The Battle of Sherramuir'.

Many believe he was an agnostic as he was very outspoken about the church. But what Burns had a problem with was hypocrisy. He was very critical of those who would make a show of their piety, who made sure everyone saw how "holy" they were and in fact, Burns was a man of faith and a regular worshipper.

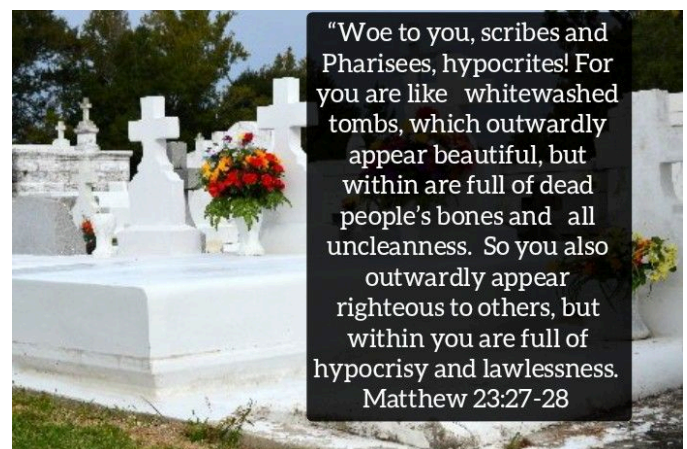
Like Burns, Jesus was also outspoken about the religious people of the time. In the Bible, there are several incidents where the Pharisees, one of the Jewish religious groups of the time, would try and trap or trick Jesus, to prove that he was wrong. He would often expose and condemn their practices and behaviour, which is one of the reasons they disliked him so much. They were so obsessed with following the 613 commandments in the Torah, that they had little room left to show compassion for the poor and sick, people Jesus had plenty of time for.

However damning Burns may have been against the Calvinist Church, he would never have referred to its ministers in the way that Jesus spoke about the pharisees. In today's verse, he compares them to burial pits. Although tombstones can be beautifully sculpted and quite impressive in design, the grave itself is full of dirt, worms, bones and death. Jesus was saying that although the Pharisees may have been dressed well in all their finery, they weren't very nice on the inside.

Jesus is often seen as someone who was meek and mild, but it is clear that like Burns, he would challenge those in authority when necessary - and he wouldn't pull any punches.

Sometimes we may need to challenge other people because of their behaviour or the things they have said. Although this may not be easy, it's good to know that we would be following in the footsteps of these two great men.

It's also interesting to know that Jesus managed to sum up the 613 commandments from the Torah into just 2 - Love God and love your neighbour.



***"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."***  
Matthew 23:27-28