



Internet Safety Day

In line with our Christian-rooted vision of aiming for all to flourish and find fulfilment, we are aware that one of the barriers for our children to achieve this as they grow up is being equipped to navigate their way through keeping themselves safe in the digital age.

Our commitment to this is clear - we have a duty to educate the children on an ongoing basis on e-safety. This both makes up part of our curriculum and also in how we support parents when children make mistakes with their new-found freedoms of owning a phone or tablet. There have been a number of occasions already this year where inappropriate messaging between children have been brought to our attention and we have needed to educate the children on choices around what they post.

As part of Internet Safety Day this Tuesday, the children will be watching a live Youtube Assembly created by the Google Internet Safety team - Be Internet Legends. This will be happening at 9.30am on Tuesday 6th February.

You are invited to join in with the assembly, if you can. You can access the assembly by clicking on the link below.

<https://youtube.com/live/zGfMFGGr8JZI>

Courageous Advocacy

One of the key things we support our children with is asking the Big Questions about life. Around once a week I have children coming to the office asking why certain things are the way they are (why the football has been temporarily been taken away at breaktime for example!) and children will openly question things we do in school - especially in terms of fairness! I have so many great conversations with the children about these things and they are always very respectful and accepting of the reasoning that guides our decisions.

I met with a group of Year 5 girls this week who have developed an entrepreneurial venture in making and selling jewellery - they could see that there was an opportunity to help charity



by working as a team, making jewellery and selling it to raise money for charity. They have chosen Cancer Research UK. The team will be selling their goods at the end of the day next Friday - it would be great if you were able to support them!

Parent Survey 2022-23 Update

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

Concern 3 was about understanding children's progress

The parent survey highlighted that parents didn't always feel they had a grasp on the progress being made by their children. We noted that the Open Door Wednesday where you could come in and look through your child's books with them had a poor take-up. We changed this to a Friday after school when, up until this term, many parents were on site at the end of the day as they had attended the Celebration Assembly - still the take-up was very limited. The opportunity to view your child's work after school is still an open invite, but one well received change was the assessment cards which came out after the autumn assessments took place. Parent feedback was that this was a useful piece of information to help parents contextualise their children's progress. I would suggest we have made some progress in this area of concern, but remember we are always available for face-to-face conversations throughout the year.

SENDIASS

Please click [here](#) the link for SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service).

It's a free, impartial, and confidential service offering information to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and to their parents and carers.

Mr Dix and Mr Turull

Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter 19 - February 2nd 2024



Notices

- **Clubs** - All clubs are running as usual next week.
- **Dance Umbrella Tickets** - KS1 Dance Club & Class 4 - tickets have now been allocated as required and can be paid for on ParentPay. Any questions please contact the office.
- **Library events** - see [here](#) the link for exciting events happening in our libraries.
- **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.

Diary Dates

New dates and amendments in blue

February 2024

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| Tue 6th | Internet Safety Day |
| Wed 7th | Year 6 Lifeskills Trip |
| Thu 8th | Year 5 Downside Art Day (consent via ParentPay) |
| Fri 9th | Celebration Assembly Cancelled (Village Hall boiler being replaced) Last Day of Term 3 |
| Mon 19th | Start of Term 4 |
| Wed 28th | Parent Consultation Sessions (1:30pm - 7:00pm) |

March 2024

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| 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 |

Friends of Farrington Gurney

Good luck to all the quiz teams tonight, we're sure it will be a lot of fun!! Huge thank you to Mr Mavin for once again volunteering to be our quiz master. His word is final!!!!!!

We've had an amazing uptake for the curry night, thanks for the rapid interest!! All tickets are now sold!!!

NEW! Starter String Group @Hayesfield Bath

Come and learn violin, viola, cello or double bass
with your friends at low cost!

Who: Key Stage 2 complete beginners

Where: Hayesfield School, Bath

When: Wednesdays 5.45- 6.45pm

Start Date: 21st February

Cost: £41.50 per double term
Free for pupil premium

Instrument hire also available

To book a space:
<https://www.wema.org.uk/register>

For more information: 01454 863147 | music@wema.org.uk



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ENGLAND



Family Holiday Activities

EXPLORE • CREATE • DISCOVER

Book online at wellscathedral.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





Thought of the Week

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?"

(Matthew 5:13)



The Bible records a lot of what Jesus said, stuff that people still remember and quote 2000 years later.

One wise person said once, 'How do we know that Jesus said all these things? How do we know that what's written down was actually said by him?'

Good questions - how do we know? Well, we don't know for sure, but as one much wiser person pointed out, all that is attributed to Jesus was said by Jesus or the authors of the Gospels came up with them instead. Either the authors were geniuses or they were quoting the same genius. I'll let you decide which.

What is believed to be Jesus' first parable is what he said about salt. Salt 2000 years ago was much more important than it is today. It was used in small quantities to flavour food, much like we use it today, but it was also used to preserve food. In the days when everything was transported by foot, or at best donkey and cart, the only way to keep fish, meat and vegetables edible was to cover it in salt or by soaking it in brine.

So when Jesus is referring to people as being the salt of the earth, it would have had much more meaning than it does for us today. But the amazing thing is, is that the parable still does have meaning today.

We may not use salt to preserve food, but we still use salt everyday in our cooking and food preparation. Doesn't that say something about Jesus - that he chooses to refer to an everyday substance that we still have and readily use in our modern day kitchens in 2024.

But what does the parable mean? Why are we salt?

Well, Jesus was referring directly to those who were following him - those who would call themselves Christians, or 'Christ's ones', as early as 15 years after the first Easter. He wants his followers to act like a preservative. Like salt being sprinkled onto food to stop it from decay, Jesus wants his followers to be sprinkled onto the world to prevent decay in society. Like salt preserves food, he wants his followers to preserve the goodness of God - God's love, mercy and forgiveness. Christians should exude basic, fundamental goodness. They should be someone who is reliable, trustworthy and straightforward - 'the salt of the earth'.

We can all add flavour to our world, just by being the people we are meant to be. I hope this week that you will see an opportunity to add flavour to a situation or do something to stop the decay in a family or a friendship. We can all make a difference by being 'the salt of the earth'.

