



An unexpected end of term which as far as I am aware was the first time any of us in our teaching careers had to close a school due to high winds. But the safety of our pupils and families must always come first and the decision made by our Trust was certainly a sensible one. We hope you all stayed safe inside today and that by this evening, the winds will have abated somewhat.

It has been brought to our attention by both the lunchtime supervisors - as well as some parents - that some lunch boxes are not looking particularly healthy at the moment and that many children are bringing in items such as chocolate bars which should certainly not be part of a packed lunch at school. Our Trust has a Packed Lunch policy which is used across all the primary schools. We can forward this to any of you if you would like. It includes the following:

*Government guidelines recommend that packed lunches should **not** include:*

- *snacks such as crisps on a regular basis.*
- *confectionery such as chocolate bars, chocolate-coated biscuits, sweets and fizzy drinks.*
- *processed fruit i.e. fruit 'Winders' or sugar/yoghurt coated fruit.*
- *processed cheese products i.e. cheese strings/Dairylea snack corners.*
- *meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies, corned meat and sausages / chipolatas should be included only occasionally.*

Please remember that not only is a healthy packed lunch better for children but it is often cheaper than buying products such as processed products or chocolate, as well as being better for the environment in terms of packaging.

On a similar issue, in September we started trialling allowing children to bring squash as well as water in their bottles. This was in response to our annual questionnaires, where many parents were concerned about their children not drinking during the day and who were struggling to get their children to drink water. Health experts advise water as the best drink for children to have at school and while we wanted to encourage all children to ideally drink water, we also didn't want children not drinking at all during the day. We were also aware that many children were already bringing in squash in darker water bottles to disguise it. We have always prided ourselves on being an open school, where parental views are welcomed. This was a trial period to see how this alternative idea worked so after the half-term break we will send out a brief Google Form to all parents regarding some food issues including this and look at any changes following the results. In this way all parents will have the opportunity to express their opinions.

It feels like every time we set aside a date for a celebration assembly at the moment, something stops it from happening. Our next planned assembly will be on Friday 11th March and hopefully we will see many of you there.

We hope you all have a lovely break over the half term and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 28th February.

Mr Turull

The village is fortunate to have a popular BMX Track on the site of the village hall. The community has asked us if any children would like to take part in a sponsored event aimed at raising money to improve the facility.

The fundraiser is being run by Coleen Telling, and further details can be found by contacting her via email: tellingcolleen@gmail.com After half-term, we will have sponsorship forms available for collection from the school foyer.

Mr Dix



Writing Competition

February Writing Competition

"Happily ever after."

Submit a short story or poem of 500 words or less to
bookbarn@bookbarninternational.com for a chance to win
a £10 Bookbarn voucher

Only open to UK residents aged 5 - 16. Please
include a title for your piece, your full name,
age and address. Must be submitted by
27th February.

Our friends at Bookbarn are offering our children to enter their monthly writing competition. The story needs to be titled 'Happily Ever After' and be less than 500 words. The winning entry wins a £10 Bookbarn voucher.

Entries can either be sent via email:

bookbarn@bookbarninternational.com,
or dropped down to them directly. Happy writing and good luck!

Notices

- **Breakfast Club** - Please book via Parentpay for Term 4.
- **COVID update** - We have one new pupil case this week.
- **Clubs** - All clubs are running as usual the first week back after the break.
- **Dinner bookings for school closure** - all dinners booked for today have been cancelled on ParentPay.
- **Dinner Options Term 4** - Dinner options can now be made via ParentPay for Term 4 and on 1st March pudding will be Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Wembley Family Day out - Women's FA Cup Final** - Please pay for your tickets via ParentPay as soon as possible. A letter was sent out on Tuesday this week.
- **Year 6 Residential** - Final payment for the Year 6 Little Canada trip was due on 17th February.

Diary Dates

February

Friday 18th	Term 3 ends
Monday 28th	Term 4 begins

March

Thursday 3rd	World Book Day (dressing up encouraged)
	Football Match at Somervale
Monday 7th	Year 6 Cross Country Event at Somervale School
Wednesday 9th	Year 6 Lifeskills Trip
Tuesday 15th	Class 1 Trip to Westonbirt Arboretum
Friday 18th	Red Nose Day (details to follow)
Wednesday 23rd	Parents Evening for Class 4 1:30 - 6:30
Monday 28th	Dance Umbrella at Bath Forum
Thursday 31st	Year 5 and 6 Gymnastics Event at Writhlington

April

Wednesday 6th	Parents Evening for Classes 1, 2 & 3 1:30pm - 6:30pm
---------------	---



Book week - call for guest readers

To celebrate book week, along with other book focused activities during the week we are going to repeat the 'guest readers' that went down so well with the children a few years ago.

Monday 7th - Friday 11th March we are looking for volunteers (family and friends) to come into school and share a favourite book with the children. A few paragraphs or a chapter, the whole book if it's short enough. Spend around 10-15 minutes or so with a class (which class depends on the book and for which class it is most suitable). The children really enjoyed hearing different texts and styles from a different reader. Some of the guest readers even left behind a copy of the book for the class to keep (optional). Each class had some lovely discussions about the different books shared.

The school wants to continue to focus on and encourage a love of reading, if you can spare 15 minutes during the school day the week after half term it would be really appreciated.

Please email the school office stating if you can do morning or afternoon and which day. If you know the book you want to share or know the class you want to share with please also indicate this.

Thank you in advance for your support with this and the children look forward to seeing many new faces and hearing/seeing some different books. Any questions please let us know.

Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Congratulations to the winners of the annual FOFGS Quiz night, and big thank you to Mr Marvin for being Quiz Master for the night!

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake table at the Table Top Sale at the Village Hall on Sunday.

School family camping trip 10-12th June (2 nights) at Petruth Paddocks in Cheddar. This is a really fun, social family weekend, everyone welcome! BBQ's, toasted marshmallows, water fights...

Please book your pitch directly with Petruth Paddocks, using the 'recognised group' category on booking and use the group reference 'Farrington Gurney School' to ensure you are pitched with the group. The campsite is filling up so we recommend booking soon if you want to come! Day visitors welcome, just contact the campsite directly to arrange.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We appreciate not everyone can attend FOFGS meetings, so we are in the process of creating a WhatsApp group for anyone who can spare any volunteer time for activities and fundraising events. We will use this group to create a rota of volunteers to help out at events to share the load amongst parents and carers. If you can spare any time please email fofgs@hotmail.co.uk with your mobile number and we'll add you to the group.

Closure of Terracycle Crisp Packet Recycling Point

The Terracycle Crisp Recycling Scheme created in 2018 will end in April as there are now so many more sites available to recycle soft plastics including crisp packets. Please can you drop off any final crisp packets you have by the end of Term 4, Friday 8th April.

Rather than putting your crisp packets in the bin for landfill, many supermarkets accept all soft plastics including, pet food pouches, bread bags, fruit/vegetable packaging, salad bags, clear film used to wrap meat/fish, sweet wrappers, crisp packets etc. and the nearest collection point to Farrington Gurney school is at Tesco in the tall wired crate clearly marked next to the Mobile Phone Shop.



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

By this time in February, there are often a few hints that spring is on the way. We're still getting lots of cold, wet and windy weather, but when the sun is out, you can sometimes sense a fresh feeling in the air, preparing us for when everything starts to bud and grow.

For most of us, the short overcast days and long, wintery nights can sometimes be difficult to get through. By the time you reach the end of January, it feels like winter has been here for ever and the idea of summer and the concept that you may ever feel too hot in a t-shirt seems like a distant memory.

Like many, since New Year, I have found it really difficult to get up in the mornings. It hasn't helped that Easter this year is quite late, which has meant we have had a seven week half term - unusual for this time of year.

It also hasn't helped that we are still partially stuck in the remnants of a pandemic. This has left many of us tired and drained. The position that we are in at the moment feels quite positive, but still with some "technicalities". It feels like we do have most of our freedoms back again, so we can visit friends and family, go out for day trips and even go on holiday. At the same time as this, it still feels like we're dragging a large metaphorical "covid" weight around with us, which is still pulling us down, making us feel awful every time we pop into the shop without a mask on. Other illnesses are making a comeback as well, now that we are fully mixing again and I've heard people feeling guilty for passing on a "bug" to someone else when they weren't even displaying symptoms when they actually saw them.



During difficult times, Christians will often draw strength from their faith and specifically from God. The book of Isaiah is a huge Bible book with 66 chapters and it is full of prophetic words that Isaiah felt God wanted him to pass onto his audience at the time. There are some interesting passages in the book about the promised messiah, all of which were fulfilled by Jesus (for example read [Isaiah 7:14](#), [Isaiah 61:1-2](#), [Isaiah 50:6](#) and [Isaiah 53](#)), but many of the chapters do have some very dark messages. Then, right in the midst of all of the upset, Isaiah prays for God's help.

Whether you have a faith or not, as the days get longer, we will all hopefully find it easier to get up in the mornings. As we get more sunshine, we will hopefully feel more energised and ready to face things.

I hope and pray that you will all be able to feel re energised from this half term and get some well earned rest and recuperation time.

"Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in times of distress."

Isaiah 33:2 (NIV)

