



We have made it to the end of another very different term and once again I would like to thank the children for all of their fantastic hard work, as well as all of you - parents, staff and Governors - for your efforts in supporting the children and their learning. Each term we are experiencing things in education that we have never faced before; we can only hope that it is not too long before we have all of our pupils back in school.

If you had asked me a year ago about how we could take our curriculum and put it all online, I probably wouldn't have thought it possible. But that is what our staff have done, while also teaching the key worker children attending school and following all the risk assessments to keep them and their pupils safe. I am also very aware of how many parents would not have imagined they could have worked from home and overseen home learning for their children as well, but have done so admirably.

I hope you and your children all manage to have a break next week and we look forward to seeing you back in person - or online - on Monday 22nd February.

Mr Turull

Despite the lockdown and home learning which started the year, members of Farrington Forum - the pupil voice within the school - met virtually and focused on an initiative to both keep active and raise funds.

They came up with 'The 10p Daily Challenge' in which pupils were able to complete 30 active daily challenges, with the Midsomer Norton Well-being group benefitting from the funds raised.



One group of children really took the challenge to heart and did an active litter pick which resulted in 2 big bags of rubbish being removed from the area around the village hall. Good work team!

Don't forget to send me pictures from Screen Free Friday and we can then add them to our Twitter account, or of course tweet them yourselves using #fgscreenfreeday and tagging us in @fgprimary (adix@farringtongurneyschool.co.uk).

Mr Dix

Notices

- **COVID-19 – Please email us should any of your children test positive for Covid-19.**
- **FSM Vouchers** - Families in receipt of Free School Meals qualifying by benefits should please see the email sent last week. This will explain that shopping vouchers will be distributed by the Local Authority for half term following the same process as that of the Christmas holiday. The Edenred scheme will then continue for Term 4.
- **School Dinners** - For those key worker children in school who require hot dinners next term please update ParentPay for the first 2 weeks of term. The menu can be found on last week's newsletter.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service link to join Rev Adam Pitt:
<https://mailchi.mp/ec54b9b7b59c/paulton-benefice-zoom-service-13236203>

Assemblies

On the first week back after the break, we will be having a whole school assembly on Tuesday. Invitations will be sent out like last time. We are also hoping to welcome Rev Adam Pitt in to lead a live assembly on Wednesday, with our Governor Kevin Burnett, back to lead a worship on the Thursday.



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin



Well whether you love it or hate it, it is Valentine's Day this Sunday. Even in the midst of a pandemic, the shops are still full of posters, cards and gifts to remind us about this special day. For many of us, we might just see it as an example of commercialism, an opportunity for businesses and shops to make money. A more positive view is to see it as a day to celebrate our loved ones and to show them that we love them.



There is some mystery around the origins of St Valentine. Many people believe it was Chaucer who first mentioned the concept of St Valentine's Day in 1375. In his poem "Parliament of Fowles", he refers to the 14th of February as the day birds and humans come together to find a mate. He links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St Valentine's feast day. It was this reference that the Victorians picked up on, which is when they started marking the day by sending Valentine's Day cards.

It's unclear as to who St Valentine even was. Valentinus was a very popular name during Roman times and on the original Roman Catholic roster, there were about a dozen saints with the name Valentine (or some variation of). One of the men believed to be St Valentine died around 270AD, but Pope Gelasius I referred to him as far back as 496AD. An account from the 1400s described Valentine as a temple priest who was beheaded near Rome by Emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples to get married, although another account claimed he was the Bishop of Terni (although he was still killed by Claudius).

Whoever St Valentine really was, his name still remains on the list of officially recognised saints and in the midst of all the confusion we are left with a day where we are provided with an opportunity to show love.

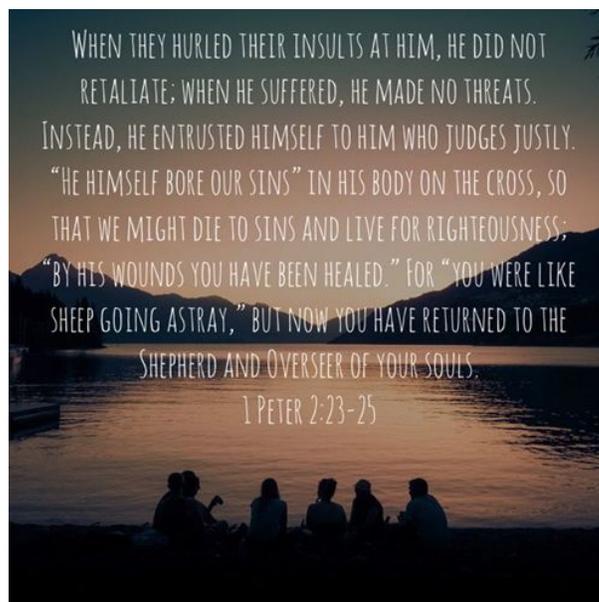
Valentine's Day is often seen as a Christian festival. The word 'Christian' means 'of Christ' and Christians believe they are meant to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Jesus was someone who was known for showing love that was unconditional and sacrificial. In Greek, this is known as 'agape' love and earlier this year, both Classes 3 and 4 were looking at what it means to show agape love. From looking at different teachings, miracles and parables, there are many examples of agape love within the Gospels – the Beatitudes, the feeding of the five thousand, the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. For more examples or for an explanation of the ones above, please speak with a child from one of these classes!

For Christians the greatest example of unconditional and sacrificial love is when Jesus willingly gave up his life and died on the cross. Even for many people who aren't Christians, this is seen as an act of agape love – an example of someone who laid down their life and was willing to be punished instead of others.

In 1 Peter 2: 23-25 it says

'They called him every name in the book and he said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right. He used his servant body to carry our sins to the Cross so we could be rid of sin, free to live the right way. His wounds became your healing. You were lost sheep with no idea who you were or where you were going. Now you're named and kept for good by the Shepherd of your souls.'

So this Valentine's Day, let's use it as an opportunity to do something special for our loved ones. Let's ask ourselves, what we can do to show how much we care, to make a difference to their day and to go that extra 'sacrificial' mile to demonstrate our love for them.



Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School
Fulfilment, Forgiveness, Foundation

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