



I hope you all had a restful half-term break and enjoyed some time to relax away from the screens we all find ourselves in front of on a daily basis. It is starting to look a little more like Spring outside and it has certainly been warmer this week; a welcome change from the freezing temperatures before we broke up.

You will have heard the announcement from the Government on Monday this week that all children are returning to school on Monday 8th March. Having spoken to many people about this since then, I know there are mixed emotions, but the majority seem pleased that children will be back in school. As staff we are certainly very happy to know that our children will be back with us learning and hopefully this should also relieve the pressure from all of you as parents. We know that there are some children - particularly the younger ones - who are struggling at the moment and feeling anxious about returning to school. I would like to reassure you that all the teaching and support staff will be placing a huge emphasis on settling the children back into school and on supporting their mental wellbeing.

We will be reverting back to the structures we had in place before Christmas and are attaching an updated letter to you with all the timings and guidelines for your information. It may be that we can ease some of these after the Easter break, but we will have to wait and see. This structure includes the staggered start and end to the day and the four separate bubbles. Please note that children also need to be back in full school uniform.

With things returning to some kind of normality in school, we will continue to update you as and when we can start activities such as swimming again. In the first instance Class 4 will be having EcoWild sessions on Wednesdays for the rest of this term, but have also added some additional sessions for Class 3 as they missed out on the practical activities. These will take place on five Friday afternoons, before and after Easter. Year 2 will start their sessions after Easter as they will be the only year group not to have had any.

If you do have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Mrs Hazard will hopefully be able to answer them or will pass them on to one of us, who will get back to you.

Mr Turull

I'm sure you are as relieved as we are that the children will be returning to school on the 8th March. We will be working hard to ensure our site is safe and welcoming for the children, and you can guarantee they will be met with some very cheery-faced staff who have missed having your children in school.

Farrington Forum

Farrington Forum have asked me to remind you to return your 10p Daily Challenge sheets and any funds you have raised when you return to school. When we have all the money in, they will meet and decide on what to purchase with the school part of the proceeds.

We are looking to start gardening again soon on our allotment in the car park, and I will be tasking the Forum with collecting ideas on how to make this space more appealing and usable. If any parents would like to be involved in this project, or have any contacts for cheap (or free!) fencing / bark / planters or the like please let me know, or pass it back through one of the Forum members.

Uniform

We have now approved the uniforms being supplied by Norton Sports and Camping. This completes our transfer away from our previous supplier MAPAC. Norton Sports and Camping will be ready to take your orders as soon as non-essential retail reopens on April 12th. If you are in desperate need of some new items, you can email the shop nortonsportsandcamping@hotmail.com and place an order. When they are operating as normal, all items of uniform will be held in stock and available to try on for size before buying. The price list is attached to this email.

Mr Dix



Notices

- **COVID-19 - Please email us should any of your children test positive for Covid-19.**
- **Breakfast Club** - Breakfast club will resume on Monday 8th March, 8am. Please book your places for this term via ParentPay by the deadline of Thursday 4th March.
- **Clubs Term 4** - a clubs letter will be sent out next week regarding clubs for the last three weeks of term.
- **EcoWild (Classes 3 and 4)** - Thank you to those who have already returned the consent letters sent by email yesterday. For those who have not yet, please can you return by the end of next week.
- **FSM Vouchers** - Those in receipt of FSM by benefits should have now received an email from Edenred to redeem their vouchers which take you up until the 8th March 2021. These are the final vouchers.
- **School Dinners** - School dinners can now be booked via ParentPay for the rest of term. Please book at your earliest convenience and by the deadline of Thursday 4th March. If you are able, please book for the rest of the term. We have been advised that the menu will not now be renewed until September.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service link to join Rev Adam Pitt:
<https://mailchi.mp/807128ec8f48/paulton-benefice-zoom-service-13364539>

Please remember to advise the office of any important changes that relate to your children. We need to ensure that the children's electronic pupil records are up to date with any amendments which may have occurred during the lockdown, or earlier that you may not have told us. Information such as change of address, telephone numbers, job and medical issues including allergies (food related or otherwise). We will also continue to use the permissions you have granted for taking photographs of the children unless you let us know otherwise.

Friends of Farrington Gurney School

If anyone is thinking about ordering name stickers for personal items or clothing, please consider using My Nametags (<https://www.mynametags.com/affiliate?id=59675>) as we can now raise money for the school through the above link. We will receive 24% from each sale, and this all adds up for something lots of us will usually buy anyway (will also help in your missing items being returned to you if misplaced at school). They also sell wall stickers if you're considering freshening up some rooms. When placing your order, either follow the link above or make sure you add our school's unique ID (59675) during the checkout process.

FoFGS will be organising an Easter trail through the village over the Easter weekend. Eggs will be displayed around the village and families will be invited to explore the village and see how many they can find. For £2 families will be able to enter their final count into a draw to try and win a prize. More details to follow.

Course for parents

Public Health England have just launched a new and free online training course [Psychological First Aid: Supporting Children and Young People](#). This is suitable for anyone who cares for or works with 0 - 25 year olds **including parents**. It is also suitable for young adults aged 13 and above to support their peers or family. Psychological First Aid (PFA) is used across the world to support people during emergencies and difficult times.

By the end of this course participants will:

- *help those in distress find solutions to their needs and problems*
- *know more about children and young people's reactions to potentially traumatic experiences at different ages*
- *have better knowledge and confidence to support children and young people during and after crisis or difficult situations, as well as to be able to identify children/young people who would benefit from PFA*
- *understand how to better support themselves and peers in such crises*