



Welcome back to Term 4, I hope you all managed to have an enjoyable half-term break. The school managed to avoid any damage from the winds on the last day of term, although many of the other schools in the Trust had fallen trees and roof tiles coming off.

Term 4 is often the busiest term of the year and we have a lot of exciting things going on before the Easter break including class trips and sports events. The children have already spent some time this week looking at World Book Day and enjoyed dressing up yesterday in costumes related to characters from stories.

In the letter sent home on Monday from Alun Williams, the conflict in Ukraine was mentioned and how this would be covered in school assemblies at the top end of Key Stage 2. This is something which most of the children will be hearing about through their families, their peers or the media and they may well ask questions in school, which our staff will tackle in a sensitive and appropriate way. You will have seen that the Farrington Forum have taken positive action towards this crisis this week; our children are caring, thoughtful and responsible and it is a credit to them that they want to do what they can to help the children who are being so badly affected by what is going on.

Mr Turull

Parents Evenings

Class 4: 23rd March

Classes 1, 2 & 3: 6th April

Bookings are now open for Parents Evenings later in the term, which will be face-to-face in school. 10 minute slots are available between 1:30pm and 6:30pm, please either call into the office (or on the playground if it is dry) to sign up, or, if you are unable to come into school, email the office with your preferred ½ hour window (eg 6:00pm to 6:30pm).

Farrington Forum Appeal

The members of Farrington Forum met this week and decided they would like to help other children of a similar age affected by the current conflict in Ukraine. They had plenty of amazing ideas on the items that might cheer up a child who had been forced to leave their homes with minimum possessions. We hope you are able to support their efforts and return your 'Bags of Hope' to school by Monday.

Red Nose Day

We will be supporting Red Nose Day on Friday 18th March. The theme will be very simple in that it is 'Wear Something Red'. Please send in a voluntary donation, which will be collected in class at morning registration. We would usually ask for £1, but if you were able to spare £2 this will be divided equally between Red Nose Day and the local being coordinated in Paulton on behalf of DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee). See below for more details.

Citizenship Booklets

We were due to celebrate the work the children have put into their Citizenship passports at the end of last term; obviously this didn't happen due to reasons beyond our control! The children are encouraged to bring their passports into school next week to share their progress so far.

Parent Forum

To ensure the free flow of information, we are holding our 2nd Parent Forum on Tuesday 15th March in the Village Hall from 8:45am until 9:15am. Mr Turull and I will be there to discuss some ongoing plans for the school as well as being able to answer any questions you may have. If you cannot make it, please email us via the school office with any observations or questions you may have.

Mr Dix



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Everyone is welcome to join us on the school family camping trip 10-12th June (2 nights) at Petruth Paddocks in Cheddar. This is a really fun, social family weekend! 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 (only non-electric pitches remain) so we recommend booking soon if you want to come! Day visitors welcome, just contact the campsite directly to arrange. We also have some exciting plans ahead for the spring and summer terms so please keep an eye out for more details soon!

Notices

- **Breakfast Club** - Please book via Parentpay by Thursday midnight for the following week.
- **Clubs** - There will be no cross country club on Monday due to the Year 6 event at Somervale. All other clubs are running as usual.
- **Dinner Bookings** - please remember to book options by Thursday midnight for the following week.
- **EcoWild - Easter Holiday Club 11-14th April**. A fun-filled holiday club in the woods. Expect playing lots of games, creating nature art, drinking hot chocolate, cooking tasty snacks and making new friends under the green canopy. See the following link: <https://bookwhen.com/ecowild#focus=ev-siu8-20220302100000>
- **Library Service:** To follow the Book Week theme, please see the following link [here](#) to find fun activities and events our local libraries are running.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Wembley Family Day out - Women's FA Cup Final** - Thank you to those who have now paid for your tickets. If you have not done so please make payment via ParentPay as soon as possible.

Diary Dates

March

Monday 7th	Year 6 Cross Country Event at Somervale School
Wednesday 9th	Year 6 Lifeskills Trip
Friday 11th	Celebration Assembly 2.30pm Village Hall
Tuesday 15th	Parent Fourm at 8:45am; Class 1 Trip to Westonbirt Arboretum
Friday 18th	Red Nose Day - wear something red (donation appreciated)
Wednesday 23rd	Parents Evening for Class 4 1:30pm - 6:30pm
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
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Community News

Message from our fellow villager Margaret Heffenan: There will be a litter pick on Sunday 6 March at 10am. Meet up at Farrington's Café for a hot drink and cake. We will also be asking pickers to identify locations where we might be able to plant more trees in the village.

Also...the results of the village survey will be presented in the Village Hall on Friday 11 March at 8pm. And if you've not filled it out yet, it's not too late; just log on to <https://tinyurl.com/mry7p9bp>. It doesn't take long and the more input we get, the more impact we can have.

Finally, residents in Paulton have come together to form a fundraising committee "Paulton Supporting Ukraine", with the aim of raising £10,000 by the 20th March. The committee truly believe that this is possible and are calling out to all local communities to support these efforts, in this time of real need in Ukraine. Direct donations can also be made via:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paultonwithukraine>





Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

With everything that is going on in the world at the moment, it can be hard to hope for better things. Many would say that all the suffering in the world at the moment is real proof that God doesn't exist and that he's not involved in our lives at all.

For Christians, their belief and trust in God is often the one thing that sees them through dark and difficult times, including the threat of war and the recent pandemic. Although it can seem that God isn't there or is distant and doesn't care, for many people this is far from the truth.

When you look at the story of the Bible, which is something we are doing in Classes 3 and 4 at the moment, it says that everything in the beginning was planned perfectly by God, including all the plants, animals and people. The fact that our world is just the right distance from the sun for us to exist and live is often seen as proof of this. Also, according to David Attenborough our planet is able to produce enough sustainable solar, wind and geothermal energy for us all, but as we are always being told, it is purely our fault that our world isn't working properly.

The Bible tells us the same thing. Although we have been given this perfect world to live in, we have decided to make our own choices instead of following God. We have been given free will and rather than working together with God and with each other, we often make our own selfish decisions. Christians would say this is the reason why there are so many problems today. In Paul's letter to the Galatians, he told the readers to assess their right to choose how they live their lives...

'You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let that freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other with love.'

(Galatians 5:13)

So many people over the years have made the wrong choices and these have often had devastating effects, including the recent decisions made by the Russian president. In that case, many would argue, why did God give us free will? Well, Christians would say that God made us very unique and by giving us free will, it allows us to make our own choices which includes the ability to love. Without free will, there cannot be love – there would only be duty. Who wants to live in a world where we share, serve and "show intimacy" towards one another out of obligation? But free will does come at a cost and if we make wrong choices, there are often consequences for our actions. Later in Galatians, Paul says this...

'Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.'

(Galatians 6:7-8)

There are repercussions for the choices we make – good and bad – and the Bible states that this is the reason why our world is in such a mess right now.

So for many people around the world, the best thing we can do at the moment is to ask God to intervene and to pray about the situation in Ukraine. I have included a prayer from Ed Gregory, the Director of Education at the Diocese of Bath and Wells along with a prayer by St Francis of Assisi.

'Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 4: 5-7)



Dear God,

All peoples are your children. And your children find themselves on both sides of the current confrontation. Now that this situation has descended into war, it will be both Ukrainian and Russian families that will suffer the loss of family members, homes, neighbourhoods, and ways of life. You are a God of peace and love, not war and bloodshed. Though the things that make for peace may be hidden from the eyes of those driving the march to war, of those seeking resolutions through diplomacy, of those now caught up in conflict, we pray that those eyes may be opened, and that peace may yet triumph.

Amen

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek*

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

*and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.*

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi.

