



After a long period of home learning for most of our children, there was a positive buzz around school on Monday as the gates finally opened for all pupils. The staff have been overjoyed with the attitude and application of the children this week; they have been quite amazing. Across the school we can report on the incredible enthusiasm shown by the children as they settle back into their familiar routines.

Without trying to run before we can walk, we can now at least look forward with some hope to even more normality returning as the restrictions ease further over the coming months. I'm sure we are all looking forward to when we can finally remove the in-school bubbles; visit church; hold Celebration Assemblies; allow the Year 6 children to spend time with their Reception Year buddies; restart trips and visits and also be able to interact with other schools in public speaking, music and sporting events.

Mr Dix

I would like to echo the comments made by Mr Dix in regards to the children returning to school this week; it has been great having all the children back in school. I think we all have hope that at some point in the summer term, school will return as close to normal as is possible.

I wanted to update you on our staffing arrangements for the rest of this academic year. As you know Mrs Bailey joined us in January 2020 to cover maternity leave for Miss Shutter in Class 2 and has been teaching two days a week from January 2021. She will be leaving us at Easter to take up a full time post for the summer term in another Trust school. We would all like to thank her for her dedication to the class in what has been the strangest year of teaching. Within three weeks of working with us, she was involved in our Ofsted inspection, which was not the most relaxed of starts! And with Covid and school closures, it has certainly not been the year anyone was expecting. However she has been a fantastic member of our school staff and we all wish her the very best in her new role.

The good news is that Mrs Glover will be returning shortly into Term 5 and she will be job sharing Class 2 along with Miss Shutter. Mrs Glover will teach Thursday and Friday, Miss Shutter will teach Monday and Tuesday, with Wednesdays being a time when the class might have one teacher or even both! We are all looking forward to welcoming Mrs Glover back to our team and I'm sure all of our parents - especially those in Class 2 - will be pleased with the news.

We are currently planning all the afternoon sessions for the rest of the year and will update you once that has been finalised. Due to the fragmented nature of this school year, we will ensure that all children have had at least 6 weeks of EcoWild and of working with Michelle Rochester. We also have cricket coaching in the summer term for all year groups.

Finally, Emily at EcoWild has asked us to distribute two flyers for sessions they are doing particularly aimed at parents who have struggled during homeschooling. These are free to attend with details of how to book on each one..

Mr Turull



Notices

- **COVID-19 - Please can you keep us informed of any positive Covid tests in your families - we draw your attention to the Covid 19 Rapid testing below.**
- **Breakfast Club** - There are currently no bookings on a Friday due to low numbers. If you therefore require a Friday session please advise the office so Mrs Coles is here to run the club can run that day. Please also book via ParentPay.
- **Clubs Term 4** - The clubs allocation letter was sent out yesterday by email. All clubs start back next week until the end of term.
- **Farrington Forum** - Would like to thank those who have so far returned their 10p Daily challenge money - it would be appreciated if you could forward any further donations by Monday morning as the Forum will be meeting to discuss how to allocate the funds.
- **Red Nose Day** - If children would like to, they can come to school on Red Nose Day in Mufti bringing a recommended donation of £1 which we will forward to the cause.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service link to join Rev Adam Pitt:
<https://mailchi.mp/d5844b0d0c4c/paulton-benefice-zoom-service-13400943>

COVID 19 Rapid Testing for those without symptoms

We are attaching a briefing paper for parents and carers sent to us by the Public Health team at Bath and North East Somerset that may be helpful. It provides a brief summary of Covid-19 tests available for those who are asymptomatic, explaining who can have tests and where these can be accessed. It specifically covers: -

- Collection of home self-test kits in B&NES
- If you or your child test positive using a rapid home self-test kit
- If you or your child test positive after having a rapid lateral flow test at a test site
- Other ways of getting a rapid COVID 19 test including; Local authority community test sites and workplace testing
- Home ordering service
- Support to self-isolate

Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Family Camping in Cheddar: Calling all campers! We have made a provisional group booking for the camping weekend at Petruth Paddocks in Cheddar from **Friday 9th - Sunday 11th July**. This has been an annual event for the past 3 years (pre-Covid!)

In the past, children from all year groups have attended, and had great fun playing on their bikes, having water fights and roasting marshmallows. When you book, please mention Farrington on the online booking form to ensure we all camp together
<https://www.petruthpaddocks.co.uk/> You can also join for the day if you would prefer not to camp! For any queries, please email fofgs@hotmail.co.uk.



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

I've just gone back and checked and it has now been a month since I last wrote one of these. As the last 'Thought of the Week' went out with the Newsletter dated 12th February, I was feeling quite weak and ill at home. I went on feeling like this for about another week or so and then I started to feel better. Unfortunately, I have noticed that I am not feeling quite as able as I normally would.

It's horrible feeling unwell and being ill, but what's almost worse is when you feel well enough to carry on, but not up to par. You are able to get up, get to work and manage most of your day to day activities, but by about three o'clock in the afternoon, or maybe a little later, you begin to go downhill. You could really do with a nap maybe, or at least a lay down, but there are still things that need to be done – preparation for the next day, cooking or washing up or maybe the children need help with something.

I don't know about anyone else, but when I feel tired or drained, even little things can make me tense. This in turn can lead to frustration, frustration can lead to anger and before you know it, your shouting at the guinea pigs for tipping their food bowl over!

I'm reminded of a verse which I think relates to this. In Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians, he wrote about 'a thorn in the flesh'. He never tells us what this thorn is, but it is obviously something that was bothering him, maybe frustrating him or even making him angry, because it was limiting him in some way. Whatever this 'thorn' was, it was stopping him from doing all that he would usually do.

In the letter, Paul tells the readers that he asked and even pleaded with God to take the 'thorn' away. Paul tells us that all he felt that God said back to him was

'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' (2 Corinthians 12:9)

It seems a strange thing for God to say back to someone pleading to have their 'thorn' taken out, but Paul understood that this meant God was enough for him. Even when he was struggling with the pain, the frustration or the anger, God would be enough for him. Even when he felt he couldn't do some of the things he would normally do or that he was limited in some way, God would still be enough for him. The verse is saying that when Paul was weak, God was able to work through him instead, by his power.

This verse also tells us that God's grace is enough. Divine grace is a theological term which is present in many religions. It has been defined by R.D. Blackmore as *'the divine influence which operates in humans to regenerate and sanctify, to inspire virtuous impulses, and to impart strength to endure trial...'* God's grace in this verse is telling Paul he will impart the strength that he needs to endure and work through any and every trial, including this particular 'thorn'.

So, when we are struggling to manage, when there is something limiting us or stopping us from 'firing on all cylinders', maybe we can take encouragement from this verse. However ill, weak or incapable we feel, maybe that's when we need to admit we cannot manage on our own. Maybe there is someone who can give us the strength we need to work through anything we cannot do by ourselves. Maybe we just need to ask.

And I think I will...just after I've had a little lie down somewhere...

