



Choral Music Day at Downside

Class 4 joined two other local schools to participate in a Choral Music Day at Downside Abbey. The children learnt many new singing techniques during the day which ended with a short performance in front of parents. The children were also treated to a full cooked lunch and some sporting activities in the Sports Hall. Having re-established links with Downside, we are now planning to take advantage of their generous offer to attend other enrichment events they offer to local schools.



Netball Tournament

The girls' netball team thoroughly enjoyed their tournament at Norton Hill School this week.

They played with great enthusiasm and determination and came away with two wins and two losses in their matches against Farmborough, St Vigor and St John, Welton and Midsomer Norton.



Covid Restrictions

Due to a fall in the number of children and staff infections, we have decided to lift the 'bubble' restrictions we put in place earlier in the term. This means that we will be able to invite parents and carers to a Celebration Assembly next Friday in the Memorial Hall (1st April at 2:30pm) and also invite parents and carers to our Easter Celebration on the last day of term. The Easter service will take a similar format to the Christmas one, where we will have one for Classes 1 and 2 at 9:30am and one for Classes 3 and 4 at 10:15am, both led by Rev Adam Pitt.

Sperring Trust

Last year we received a very welcome donation from the Sperring Trust in Midsomer Norton. We have spent this money on improving play equipment, and the final pieces arrived this week in the shape of wooden construction equipment which the children can use in many imaginative ways. We are very thankful to them for their ongoing support.



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

With the allotment coming along nicely thanks to a team of volunteers from the village, Friends of Farrington Gurney School will be funding some benches to be made for the area for children from the school to sit and enjoy the area while getting involved in maintaining it.

We are planning some exciting things for the summer term-a sponsored physical and fun activity, a crazy hair day, and a super exciting activity day for the children - so keep your eyes open for dates and details coming soon!

We have a WhatsApp group set up for anyone who may be able to offer ad hoc, occasional help at activities and events. If you'd like to join the group and help where you can, let one of us know or email fofgs@hotmail.co.uk.

Notices

- **COVID update** - We have had 3 new cases this week.
- **Clubs** - All clubs are running as usual except no cross country due to the Dance Umbrella.
- **Car Park Surface** - please drive carefully over the car park surface opposite the school. We have asked the hall committee to fill the holes however we are not sure when this will be completed. Any damage to your cars will unfortunately be at the owners/drivers liability. Please remember that you can park in the car park by the Memorial Hall as well to avoid the potholes.
- **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:** Please see the following link [for events & activities](#) & [book review form](#).
- **Plants** - any perennial plants for our plot can be left under the hedge - our volunteers will plant them up with the children.
- **School Nurse Service:** Reception and Year 6 Parents will have received an email on Monday from the office regarding the height and weight screening (Year 6) and New Entry Vision and Hearing Health Review (Reception) - if you wish to opt out there is a 10 day window from today to do this in. Please see the email for details. Reception screening will take place on 27th April. Year 6 screening TBC.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Terracycle Crisp Recycling Scheme** - Closure Reminder - the scheme will end in April. Please can you drop off any final crisp packets you have by the end of Term 4, Friday 8th April. 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. The nearest collection point to our school is at Tesco in the tall wired crate clearly marked next to the Mobile Phone Shop.

Diary Dates

March

Monday 28th	Dance Umbrella at Bath Forum
Tuesday 29th	Final swimming for Year 6
Thursday 31st	Year 5 and 6 Gymnastics Event at Writhlington (1:00pm)

April

Friday 1st April	Celebration Assembly 2:30 in the Memorial Hall
Monday 4th - Friday 8th	Year 6 Residential Week
Tuesday 5th	Final swimming for Year 5
Wednesday 6th	Parents Evening for Classes 1, 2 & 3 1:30pm - 6:30pm
Friday 8th	Easter Service (am)
	Term 4 ends



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

Last week we looked at a statement that was very counter-cultural. It was part of a talk or sermon that Jesus gave to not only his disciples, but to a 'great number of people' it says in the Bible. If you didn't read last week's thought, this was the statement.

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

(Luke 6:20)

Society now and then would say you are blessed if you are wealthy, so what Jesus is saying is an example of 'the upside-down nature' of living God's way. This verse is counter-cultural and it isn't the only example. In the next verse, Jesus says,

"Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied."

(Luke 6:21)

This is also difficult to read, because there are plenty of people around the world and quite close to home at the moment who are hungry and even starving. Would they consider themselves 'satisfied'?

We are aware that we are responsible as a species for making sure that everyone has enough to live on. According to 'Food First', an organisation which is dedicated to ending the injustices that cause hunger, *'for the past two decades, the rate of global food production has increased faster than the rate of global population growth.'* They go on to say that *'according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (2009a, 2009b) the world produces more than 1 1/2 times enough food to feed everyone on the planet. That's already enough to feed 10 billion people, the world's 2050 projected population peak. But the people making less than \$2 a day—most of whom are resource-poor farmers cultivating un-viably small plots of land—cannot afford to buy this food.'*

So we can see that our world isn't working fairly and that is the main reason that people are still hungry or starving in our world. We can all give something to help those who don't have enough, but what is really needed is a cultural shift where there is "food justice" for all – something we can pray and raise awareness about.

What about Jesus' statement then? How will the hungry be satisfied?

Well for those who believe in an afterlife, this could be where those who hunger now will be satisfied. In the book of Isaiah, in the Old Testament, the prophet talks about a day when *'the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines.'* (Isaiah 25:6) For many Christians, this is seen as a picture of heaven, where there will be a feast and our souls will be satisfied. Although this isn't necessarily what we might be thinking when we read that the hungry will be satisfied, it does seem to be what Jesus is referring to.

What does this mean for us? Well if you have a faith, then you can look forward to the day when your soul and many others' will be satisfied. A day when God *'will wipe every tear from...(our) eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'* (Revelation 21:4)

But for all of us, it reminds us that things aren't fair in our world – 2000 years later there are still people in our world who are hungry. Maybe the challenge is to try and equal the balance and look for ways that we can help those who are hungry now and make a difference while we still can.

