



We have reached the end of the school year - one like no other - and I am sure you and your children are all looking forward to a very well-deserved summer break. Term has ended with an extremely hot week, where we have balanced indoor and outdoor activities to try and keep the children both engaged and cool.

Thank you to everyone who has completed a parent questionnaire; we have had the majority of these back and they have been very useful in planning some new ideas for September. We will follow up on these suggestions when we return after the break.

Mr Dix and I would like to wish all of our school leavers the best of luck as they move on from Farrington Gurney. We have 12 children in Year 6 moving on to their secondary schools, as well as Tommy and Jae in Year 5, and Lillie in Year 4, who are moving to new schools in Woolacombe and Bath. They have all made great contributions to our school and we look forward to hearing how they are getting on in the future.

We all appreciate what a difficult year this has been for the whole school community and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support you have given us. I have been at the school for over six years now and know what a great school we have, much of which is down to the fantastic relationships we have fostered between home and school. It is always a privilege to teach your children; their enthusiasm and optimism have continued to shine through these difficult times.

I would also like to thank all of our staff who throughout the pandemic, have put the needs of the children first. They have worked tirelessly for the whole year both in school and at home with remote learning, to ensure the children have continued to flourish and experience high quality teaching and learning.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer break; long may this sunshine continue (although perhaps in slightly cooler conditions!) If you do have any questions over the break, please email the office (office@farringtongurneyschool.co.uk) as Mrs Hazard, Mr Dix and myself will be monitoring the inbox and will respond as quickly as possible. We look forward to seeing you all again at the beginning of September.

Mr Turull

An academic year which started with a bang (remember the car fire in the first week?) has somehow already passed us by. It has been another remarkable year with our children developing both academically and socially despite the long lockdown and the other restrictions we had to follow.

The recent parent questionnaire has given Mr Turull and I plenty of action points to ensure the school continues to move forward and improve even further. One main theme was the disconnect felt due to parents not being able to interact with the school in the normal ways - these are key relationships we have done our best to maintain during these testing times for us all, and will promise to build these back stronger in the future. One way to achieve this will be to hold termly 'Parent Forums' where you will be able to meet myself and/or Mr Turull in person to hear our plans face-to-face, and also directly ask us any questions or express any concerns you may have. We will schedule the first meeting for the early part of September.

Our friends at Hunting Raven Books in Frome have included us in their Marcus Rashford campaign by both donating a copy of his book to our school, and by giving our school (the only one outside of the immediate Frome area) the opportunity to nominate young friends, neighbours or classmates who show great acts of kindness (no matter how seemingly small) to be in with a chance to win a rare signed copy of Marcus's book. To enter, you need to email the name and age of the young person and details of their act of kindness to winstonebooks3@gmail.com by 15th August - wouldn't it be great if one of our young people won this?

Enjoy your summer break and stay safe.

Mr Dix



Arrangements for September

Below are the arrangements for the return to school, but as we all know these are subject to change. Should any restrictions alter before September we will of course email you during the holidays to let you know.

Beginning and end of the day

From our questionnaires, we could see that parents were divided on the start and end to the day, but we have decided to return to the procedures we used to have. This means that the gate will open at 8:35am each morning with pupils being dropped off between then and 8:45am. Registration will take place in class between 8:45am and 8:50am. There will be a member of staff available on the playground each morning in case you have any messages or concerns to be passed on. At the end of the day, all the children will be brought back onto the playground at 3.15pm to meet you - many of you have said how much you are looking forward to being able to talk to each other and the staff again on the playground as the children finish for the day.

PE days

We have decided that children should continue to come to school in their PE kits on the days that they will be having PE lessons. The exact days will be sent out by your child's teacher in their class newsletter before term begins. A reminder that for PE the children should wear a house coloured t-shirt (either a logo one, or plain), plain black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings, as well as trainers. School jumpers can be worn over the top, or logo/plain hoodies. Forest school clothes should also be worn on the days children will be taking part in EcoWild.

Bubbles

At the time of writing, it is anticipated that we will not be putting the children into any form of bubble in September. They will be able to mix within the school and on the playground and meet again for events such as assemblies and buddies.

Assemblies/Classroom visits

We aim to start our Friday assemblies every other week with the first one of these on Friday 17th September. We will also open up our classrooms after school every Wednesday for 15-20 minutes if you want to come and see your child's work starting on the second week back. More information about this will be sent out in September.

Notices

- **Clubs Term 1 & 2** - Please submit your requests to the office by Wed 8th September and make payment for Football & Multisport Clubs with either Martin Philips or Premier Sport as per the letter to secure your place.
- **Dinner Menu** - the new menu for Terms 1 & 2 is available to see on the website and can now be booked via ParentPay. Years 1-6 in September should book by the deadline of Thursday 2nd September. Those who miss the deadline should bring a pack lunch for the first week back. Reception Class 2021 will receive a ParentPay activation letter at your home visit and bookings will then be available thereafter. For those Year 2s who no longer qualify for a free meal going into Year 3 a charge for dinners is now required of £2.60 per meal and a letter has been sent home regarding this.
- **EcoWild** - it will be the turn of Class 1 to enjoy EcoWild next term from Wednesday 22nd September. Letters will be sent home to explain at the beginning of term.
- **Learning an instrument (Y3-6):** If your child would like to join others who learn an instrument at school please contact the following: BANES Music Hub at music@bathnes.gov.uk for vocals, cello, keyboard & strings or Music for Schools at info@mfsf.org.uk or 0345 3752466 for recorder (from Y2) and woodwind and brass instruments. Lessons incur a cost which is paid directly to each provider.
- **Medication** - If your child needs medication or inhalers administered in school in September please ensure this medication form is completed ([medication form](#)) and sent to school with clearly named medication. Medication will only be administered which has been prescribed by a Doctor unless agreed with the office.
- **St. John's Church** - <https://mailchi.mp/537147555207/paulton-benefice-zoom-service-13492151>
- **Swimming** - Will be on a Tuesday afternoon for Class 2 in Terms 1 & 2.
- **Wellies** - All children need a **clearly** named pair of wellies in school in September. If they have no name, we will name them with a permanent marker pen as this year many children have struggled to identify their own wellies. All wellies that were in school this year have now been sent home.



Diary Dates

September

Thu 2nd/Fri 3rd	INSET Days
Mon 6th	Term 1 begins for Year 1 – Year 6 Home visits for Reception children
Tue 7th	Home visits for Reception children Class 3 and 4 curriculum football sessions begin Class 2 Swimming starts
Wed 8th	Term 1 begins for Reception (until 12 noon)
Fri 10th	Tea & Cake for Parent/Carers 11am organised by "Friends"
Mon 13th	Reception in until 1:15pm all week
Mon 20st	Reception in full time
Wed 22nd	Individual School Photos AM

The office email will be monitored over the summer holidays so please contact us if you have any questions

Friends of Farrington Gurney

Thanks to everyone who supported our raffle - we raised almost £600!

The winning ticket was purchased by Lucy W (a friend of Amber Chivers) who will be collecting the bag this weekend.

We are planning a welcome to the school for all new (and existing) parents on the first Friday of term at 11am in the outdoor classroom. More details next term.

Thanks to you all for your support of FoFGS and have a lovely summer



Sunflower Growing Competition: Don't forget to enter your #FGTALLESTSUNFLOWER into the competition. Email a photograph of your sunflower next to a measuring tape to fofgs@hotmail.co.uk





Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." (Exodus 20:11)

Do you struggle with resting? So many of us lead such busy lives nowadays, that sometimes it can be difficult to switch off. Even if we work away from home, many of us still find it difficult to rest after work. There are usually jobs that need doing in the evenings and at the weekend. If you just about manage to keep on top of the house, you take a look outside and notice that the garden seems to have got out of control. So you spend some time maintaining the garden and then the house needs tidying.

Even when we have holidays, we often want to get larger jobs done during those times – the jobs that can't usually be done in a normal week. Maybe it's some painting and decorating, or there's a shed that needs putting up, or the garage needs clearing out, or there's an extension that needs to be built. Before you know it, your "holiday" has become a "maintenance" week, or weeks. And then you still have the gardening and housekeeping to contend with.

The verse I've chosen today is one reminding us about the importance of rest. Now, for those of you who do believe in God, I think it's important to note that the Bible clearly states that God rested. Most Christians would agree that God doesn't actually need to rest – there are other verses that tell us that God 'neither slumbers nor sleeps' – Psalm 121:4 (it's so good to use the word 'nor' – so underused!) Most Christians would say that the reason God rested was to show us the pattern – that we need to rest. The suggested amount is one day out of every seven – one day a week. In the Old Testament, it even talks about the land taking a sabbatical rest – that every seven years, the land should be left to rest in order to replenish itself. So if the land needs to rest and God is demonstrating the model of rest, surely we need to rest.

Fitness experts recognise the importance of rest days, to let our bodies and minds recover and to stop us from burning out. The Royal College of Nursing states that all nurses are entitled to an uninterrupted rest period of at least 24 hours in each seven day reference period. Nidirect says that working time is limited to 48 hours a week and that everyone is entitled to at least one day of rest every week. Holidays and breaks, where you get some physical and psychological space from the demands of life, can bring many benefits. These include reduced stress, restoration (physically and mentally), clearer thinking (the break in the stress cycle can lead to sharper thinking and increased creativity) and increased productivity (better at your job, more available in your relationships and more able to enjoy life after you return).

So going back to the original plan, it's clear that rest is important. It's mentioned in both the first and second books of the Bible and Jesus also spoke about the importance of rest and how he can give us the rest we need. This is an invitation to take a break.

Hopefully over these next six weeks you will get an opportunity to have a rest and if so, make sure you take one. It is beneficial not only for you, but also for the ones you love and care for. Resting is good so I'm going to take a dose of my own medicine.

For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.

Therefore the LORD blessed the

sabbath day

and made it holy.

Exodus 20:11

