

Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

A place where all can flourish, find fulfilment and experience life in all its fullness

Newsletter 7 - October 20th 2023



Half Term Break

The half term break has arrived and we hope the children have a restful holiday ready for the second half of autumn term and the run up to Christmas.

Due to an INSET Day on Monday 30th October, the children's first day back in school will be Tuesday 31st October.

Car Park

It is very likely that the car park opposite the school will be closed when we return after half term.

The village hall committee are concerned at the further deterioration of the surface, which we are sure you will have noticed since it was last levelled out by a team of volunteers. They are meeting over half term to decide on a course of action.

We are led to believe there are no funds available for a permanent solution to the problem such as having it fully tarmacked.

If the car park is closed on our return, please use the main hall car park, but please do not park on the access road into it, or alternatively some children may like to continue walking/scooting into school as they have done during the recent road closure.

We will update you on the car park situation as it develops.

Breakfast Club - Wraparound Service

We have plenty of availability for Breakfast Club next term and hope that you will use this useful service. Sessions can be booked via ParentPay and cost £4.00 for the eldest child and £3.00 for siblings. The Club starts at 8am until school commences and includes food and games. If you have any questions, please come to or email the office. Ad-hoc places can be booked.

Raising Awareness of Young Carers

We are linking a locally-made video raising the awareness of 'young carers'. Our records show we currently have no children on roll who are classified as young carers, but nationally a school of our size has as many as 20 children fulfilling this role.

Please take a couple of minutes to watch the video below, and feel free to contact school

via the office email if this raises any questions, or you require any further signposting to support. The link is [here](#)

Musical Opportunity at Downside

Our friends at Downside School have sent on the following opportunity:



The very special performance will take place at the Fleischner Theatre, Downside School, on the 6th November at 7pm (refreshments available beforehand). See [here](#) for more information & how to book.

Governor Vacancy

Farrington Gurney Primary School has a vacancy on our Local Governing Body (LGB). The LGB is made up of Governors from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, and they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school. You do not need to have any experience or prior knowledge, as training will be offered. We would be delighted to hear from you; please contact Mrs Hazard (Clerk to the Governing Body) or Mrs Tyrrell (Chair of Governors) for more details.

Friends of Farrington Gurney School

As a school we appreciate the hard work that goes on within our PTA - their efforts mean that we can fund experiences beyond what our school budget allows, for example they are paying for a panto experience this year for the children at the Memorial Hall.

Unfortunately, the small core of people running the PTA are stretched and the AGM saw only 5 people in attendance.

We ask that if you are able to give some time up to join our existing members, please consider it as without additional members, the existence of our PTA could be put in doubt.

Mr Dix and Mr Turull



This Week's Learners of the Week

Compassionate	George M, Arthur J, Ralph P, Thomas W
Agile	Felix S, Otto S, Molly K, Bow H
Responsible	Arabella D, Heidi M, Ruben D, Isla T
Engaged	Billy M, Sebastian P, Reuben B, Zeta D
Well Done - Keep up the Good Work!	

House Points for Good Manners (Last 3 Weeks)

Ferentone	Mogg	Gournay	Azelin
24	25	36	25
Total for Term 1			
55	68	97	71

Notices

- **Breakfast Club** - please book your sessions for next term via ParentPay.
- **Clubs** - Lego club has now ended for Term 1. There is a **new skittle club** next term for years 2-6. We have had 8 show interest so far; please contact the office if your child would like to join.
- **Dinners** - Please do not forget to book your child/rens meals for next term by midnight Thursday 26th October. The catering team have also asked to share the following message concerning the menu/bookings: After running our current menus for the last term we have changed some recipes that are not very popular with the students. We have replaced:
 - Chill Con Carne for Macaroni Cheese (Monday wk 1)
 - Ratatouille for Cheese & Tomato Pinwheel (Tuesday wk 2) Veggie option
 - Macaroni Cheese for Cauliflower Cheese (Wednesday wk 2) Veggie option

- Sweet & Sour Chicken for Beef Bolognaise (Monday wk 3)
- Shepherds Pie for Chicken Korma (Thursday wk 3)
- Potato, Cheese and Leek Bake for ratatouille (Thursday wk 3) Veggie option

As we have had to change these on Cypad any pre ordered already placed would have been cancelled and you will need to reorder one of the new menu items.

The Christmas Menu for 13th December will be added by Catering in the first week back for you to book thereafter.

- **Flu Immunisations** - Please see the email sent home on Tuesday relating to consent for the immunisations taking place on 4th Dec.
- **Photographs** - delivery for those who ordered photos will be the beginning of the 2nd week back.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Seal Class Trip to Stonehenge** - this has been set up for consent and payment via ParentPay. A detailed email via ParentPay has also been sent.
- **Year 4 Residential Trip to Mendip Activity Centre** - this has been set up for consent and deposit payment via ParentPay. A detailed email via ParentPay has also been sent.
- **Year 6 Secondary School applications** - we have been advised that applications are still required on-line for several children - if you have not yet applied please do so by 31st October.

Friends of Farrington Gurney School

We have a change of date for the disco to avoid clashing with the Wells carnival. It will now be held on 24th November, 6pm-7.30pm at the village hall.



We are also very excited to share details of our festive wreath making workshop. This will be held on 29th November at 7pm at Farrington Church.

Tickets are now available at £15.00/pp (inc. of nibbles) Please BYO drinks! Tickets must be purchased in advance so that materials can be organised. Please email tor_foxwell@yahoo.co.uk or message 07791324412 to book.



Diary Dates

New dates and amendments in blue

October 2023

- Mon 30th INSET DAY
- Tue 31st Term 2 starts for children
Secondary School Application Deadline

November 2023

- Mon 6th Reception Parents' Phonics Workshop (3:30-4:00pm)
- Fri 9th Remembrance Day Assembly 11am (parents welcome)
- Wed 1st Y6 Height & Weight Screening PM
- Wed 8th Seal Class Stonehenge Trip
- Fri 10th Celebration Assembly 2:30pm
- Fri 17th FoFGS Disco Village Hall 6-8pm
- Fri 24th Celebration Assembly 2:30pm
Rescheduled School Disco 6-7:30pm

December 2023

- Mon 4th Flu Immunisations AM
- Thur 7th Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
- Fri 8th Celebration Assembly 2:30pm
- Mon 11th Carols by Candlelight 6pm start
- Tue 12th KS1 Nativity in the hall 2pm start
- Wed 13th Christmas Dinner Day
- Thu 14th KS1 Nativity in the hall 6pm start
- Tue 19th Christmas Carol Service in St John's Church (9:15am)

Sunday Sessions

VOCALS

Two workshops for young singers of all abilities!



Sunday 12th November
Meadowbrook Primary School, Bradley Stoke
10am - 12.30pm ages 7 - 10
1.30pm - 4pm ages 11 - 14

The wonderful Kate Courage returns for another set of workshops. Exploring a range of styles, this is a fun and welcoming environment for young people to sing together and make new friends!

TICKETS: £15 per student
Free for students in receipt of free school meals



CLICK HERE to book and for more info

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Thought of the Week

**'As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
(Matthew 3:16-17)**



Today's verse happened just as Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. I wonder what it might have felt like to be there, hearing God's voice from heaven? What might the voice of God sound like?

How might it have felt for Jesus? To hear these words of affirmation from God the Father as he was about to embark on his mission to tell the world the good news? God the Father was letting everyone know that this was his Son and that he loved him and that he was really pleased with him. He was really pleased with him and he hadn't even done anything yet!

Often we want to hear someone telling us how pleased they are with us when we have actually done something and done it well. If you do a good job, then yes there is a reason for someone to be pleased with us. But have we ever told our children or maybe our other family members that we're pleased with them just because of who they are?

For some of us it can be difficult enough to tell them that we love them, let alone going so far as telling them how pleased we are with them. But when we think about our children and really consider them for a moment, we can begin to see just how fantastic it is to have

them in our lives. In the business of life we forget just how special they are and what an amazing thing it is to have them with us. What a privilege it is to be involved in bringing these unique individuals into the world. For some of us it may be that we have only been involved in their upbringing, but still what a joy it can be when we realise how special and important this is.

So, this week, a challenge. Can you stop for a moment and think about that child or those children that you care for? Can you go a step further and consider the difference they make in your life and to those around them? Can you tell them that you love them? Can you tell them how pleased you are with them? Not because of their achievements or their school work or even for helping out around the house. Tell them how pleased you are with them because of who they are, that you are proud of them for being who they are.

It might only take a moment, but what a moment! After all, every single one of us is unique, created to be different, created to be in relationship with others and created to be loved. Every one of us needs to be told how great we are and how much we matter. I mean if Jesus needed to hear these words, how much more do we?

