



We have all really enjoyed being back in school this term. Children in all classes have been busy learning and have shown a lot of enthusiasm every day. Our staff have worked really hard to support all of the pupils and have stepped into different roles when needed due to absence, for which I am very grateful. There have been many highlights of the term including our harvest festivals, Class 4's evacuee trip and getting to know our Reception starters.

Thank you to all of you who attended the remote parents evening and for accommodating the change from a face-to-face meeting at short notice. With a couple of positive cases in the school and other children having PCR tests this week, we didn't want to take any unnecessary risks. If you were not able to speak to your child's teacher, then please do contact them and arrange a catch up about your child's learning this term.

I have had contact with a few parents about traffic issues in the village, especially in regard to concerns about speeding traffic along Main Street. If you are driving into the village, please be mindful of the 20mph limit and the fact that there are often adults and children walking along the lanes by the school. If you are able to share lifts with other families who live near you, then that of course helps ease congestion. Many thanks for your support with this.

When we return we will be looking forward to the run-up to Christmas and everything that goes with that (usually involving a lot of singing and glitter!) We have put together a provisional list of dates for the Christmas period which is further down in the newsletter.

I hope you all have a restful week's break and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 1st November.

Mr Turull

Farrington Forum

Farrington Forum have worked hard to set up and oversee the Hat Day last Friday in aid of local charity Time is Precious. There have been so many great hats on display today - what a great way to both raise money and have fun.

We ended up raising £103, all of which will be spent on two children with needs within our local area.

Next term will see us elect a new forum, so I'm sure there will be other great initiatives to share before the end of the year.

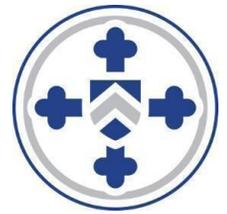
COVID

Once again in the last week we've been reminded that we aren't yet completely clear of the pandemic as we have had members of our school community self-isolating either pending results or having tested positive. This puts a strain back on families and indeed the staff as well. I can vouch for the fact that everything takes 5 times longer trying to work from home! The staff in school again have taken up the slack and continue to work hard to ensure the impact on the children is minimised. We have received some lovely messages from parents thanking us for being so open and honest about the situation we found ourselves in. Typical of the comments received were: "Thank you so much for this information. Being open allows us to make sensible choices regarding vulnerable family and friends."

Wellness Day

As a staff we have invested in our termly Wellness Day. It is so important we take a holistic approach to the children, their education and their wellbeing. Again, many thanks to the positive comments shared about last Friday's Wellness Day - the children clearly enjoyed the varied activities on offer and the staff enjoyed sharing their passions with the children. For those of you following us on Twitter - @fgprimary, a quick scroll back through our posts never fails to amaze me with the variety of opportunities we continually offer the children: trips, yoga, orienteering, book reviews to name but a few, which alongside our selection of after school clubs, means our school really nurtures the whole child.

Mr Dix



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes for today's bake sale, it was a nice way for us to kick start this year's fundraising!

We are still selling tickets to [Mendip & District's 2021 Firework display](#), and we keep 50p from each ticket sold. Tickets are £4.50 (under 5's go free), cash please. If you would like tickets please ask one of us in FOFGS or find details on the facebook group.

Save the date for the school disco, Friday 19th November!

We have some exciting plans ahead for Christmas fundraising (including the festive Christmas trail around the village) so keep in touch with us to find out more.

Have you joined our Facebook group yet, [Friends of Farrington Gurney School?](#) This is an easy way to keep up to date with our planned events and activities, to share new ideas, and to volunteer to help out at any upcoming events.

Our next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd November, 8pm at Farrington Inn - please come along and find out our plans, share your ideas.

Notices

- **Breakfast Club** - Bookings can now be made via ParentPay for Breakfast Club places in Term 2. If you require information on how to join our breakfast club please contact the office.
- **Christmas Cards, Mugs & Tag Orders** - The children created their own Christmas design to personalise cards, mugs & tags. Order sheets have now been sent home for you to place your orders via the on-line shop (www.sforders.co.uk) by the 10th November using your child's unique code from the proof. If you have any queries please email friends; fofgs@hotmail.co.uk.
- **Clubs** - Clubs start back the first week after half term.
- **Dinners** - Please place your child's lunch cooked dinner options on ParentPay for Term 2. Remember if you are booking weekly that the deadline is the Thursday before the week you are choosing options for (ie: Thurs 28th October).
- **Football Club** - Football Club on a Tuesday for Y3-6 will now be available to book for Term 2. If you wish to renew your subscription for Term 2, or if your child would like to start the club next term, then please email the office and make payment £27/6 weeks in total if you wish to join until Christmas. Please make payment, quoting FG followed by child's name by Bank transfer to A/c Name: Think Football Coach, A/c No.: 64230724 (Business Ac) Sort Code: 01-09-02.
- **Free School Meal Vouchers** - Those families who qualify for FSM please see your emails from school concerning Vouchers for the holiday break.
- **Letter from the MAT** - please see attached to this newsletter, correspondence from Mr Alun Williams.
- **MSN Rugby Club** - are inviting boys and girls from Reception to Year 6 to play junior rugby. Please see the letter and flier attached to this newsletter.
- **Open Day** - if you know anyone who has a child starting school next year, then please let them know that we are holding our school open morning on Wednesday 24th November 9.30-11.30am. Please call or email the office to register.
- **School hoodies** - We still have a few nearly new navy school hoodies with the old logo, in size 32 available for free. Should anyone like one please contact the office.
- **Secondary School Applications** - Year 6 Secondary School application letters have been sent home. Please remember the deadline for applications is midnight on 31st October.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service Link can be found [here](#).
- **Year 6, Little Canada Residential Trip** - please remember to pay the 2nd installment of £65 due today via ParentPay.



COVID-19 - Please report all POSITIVE LFT and PCR to the office during the break by email.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If the child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

From 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and any of the following apply: you are fully vaccinated, you are below the age of 18 years 6 months, you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial or you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons. Fully vaccinated means that at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine. NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. Even if you do not have symptoms, you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible.

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as a household contact of someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing or someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Diary Dates

November

Mon 1st	Term 2 begins
Tue 2nd	Swimming continues for Class 2
Wed 3rd	EcoWild continues for Class 1
Fri 5th	Celebration Assembly (2:30pm in the Memorial Hall)
Wed 10th	Class 2 Trip to Radstock Museum
Thu 11th	Remembrance Day
Tue 16th	Girls Football Tournament (Somervale School)
Fri 19th	FOFGS Christmas Disco

Provisional Christmas Dates

December

Thu 2nd	Benefice Carol Service (High Littleton Church)
Mon 6th	Class 4 Carol Service at Clifton Cathedral (pm)
Thu 9th	School Pantomime Trip
Fri 10th	Senior Citizens' Party
Mon 13th	Carols by Candlelight (6:00pm in the playground)
Tue 14th	Class 1 and 2 Nativity (pm)
Wed 15th	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Thu 16th	Class 1 and 2 Nativity (evening)
Fri 17th	Carol Concert (9:30am at St John's Church)



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

It's not usual that my thought of the week is more like a book review, but it is the start of the half term and many of you might have some time to relax with a book. That is of course if you haven't already read this one. It is a multi-million copy bestseller.



The Midnight Library focuses around the life, or lives, of Nora Seed. I don't want to say too much, but Nora starts off in a very low place and has lots of regrets about her life and where she has found herself at the age of 35. She starts questioning her existence and focuses on all the things she could have done and the people she could have been rather than the person she actually is.

Nora is given the opportunity to consider all of her regrets and other people's expectations of her and to experience what life may have been like if she had made different choices.

By the end of the book, Nora realises the potential she has always had and the opportunities that her one life can give her and that it *is* all worth living for. As the mantra of the librarian in the story goes, 'You don't have to *understand* life. You just have to *live* it.'

Nora's perspective on life completely changes. Towards the end of the book, Nora notices her elderly neighbour, Mr Banerjee smiling at her as she arrives back home. He is pleased to see her and the feeling is mutual.

'And he smiled broader, and his eyes were full of kindness and concern, and Nora remembered what it was to care and be cared for. She followed her brother inside her flat..., catching a glimpse of the clusters of irises in Mr Banerjee's garden as she went. Flowers she hadn't appreciated before, but which now mesmerised her with the most exquisite purple she had ever seen. As though the flowers weren't just colours but part of a language, notes in a glorious floral melody, as powerful as Chopin, silently communicating the breathtaking majesty of life itself.'

(The Midnight Library, p.285)

King David was known for finding life hard and difficult and on a number of occasions, his songs or psalms were pretty miserable. But, like Nora, David was good at turning things around and to see things differently. In Psalm 13, for example, David spends most of the Psalm complaining about how long he has to cope with sorrow and pain and his enemies triumphing over him, to the point where he feels that he will 'sleep in death' (Psalm 13:3) By the end of the Psalm though, David is able to change his perspective and he is able to rejoice. What is David able to rejoice in and what enables him to think differently? The Lord. He says he will trust in God's unfailing love, he will rejoice in his salvation and he '*will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to*' him. (Psalm 13: 5-6)

Thinking about this idea of changing our perspective and making sense of our own lives, David has this to say.

*'You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.'* (Psalm 16:11)

David is able to see that it is God who is in control of his life, not him, and that if he allows God to show him what he has planned for him and if he rests in this, he will find joy and pleasure...even in the mundane.

Life isn't always fascinating, joyful and exciting and there is plenty of things that we go through that can really bring us down. But like David and Nora, I hope we can all adjust our perspectives so that we do become mesmerised by the flowers, entranced by the birdsong and even though we don't always understand life, that we will all be able to live it.

