



We have reached the end of the first term back of this academic year and have been very impressed with the children throughout the term; their behaviour, their attitude to learning and their adaptability. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our staff for their hard work and flexibility during September and October, with a special mention to Kelly Sheppard – our cleaner – who has kept our school exceptionally clean during this time. Thanks also to all of you who have adapted to the new routines, such as staggered drop off and pick up; we really appreciate the positive comments we have received about settling the children back into school.

All the children have been studying Black History Month; you can see some information about the people they have been reading about on the next page. They have been inspired by many people and what they achieved, often facing considerable prejudice. I am sure they will share what they have learnt with you over the next week.

Along with all the Trust schools, we now have a Remote Learning Plan ready should a child, a bubble or even the whole school need to isolate. This will mean that learning can continue should the children need to be at home for a week or two. We will share more of these details with you when we return in November.

We wish all of you an enjoyable half-term break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 3rd November.

Mr Turull

Notices

- **Breakfast Club** – Bookings for Term 2 are now open via ParentPay by the Thursday 29th October deadline please for the first week back.
- **Christmas Cards, Mugs & Tag Orders** – The children created their own Christmas design to personalise cards, mugs & tags. These order sheets were sent home last week. Please place your orders via the on-line shop, sforders.co.uk by the 11th November using your child's unique code from the proof. If you have any queries please e-mail friends; fofgs@hotmail.co.uk.
- **Clothes** – please ensure your child has clearly named warm clothes (e.g. coat) as the weather gets colder.
- **Clubs** – the clubs allocation letter for Term 2 will be sent by e-mail with this newsletter. Clubs start the first week after half term and end on Friday 11th December.
- **Data Collection** – it is really important that the school receive updated details, such as medical issues, addresses, telephone numbers or contacts by e-mail as soon as they occur.
- **Dinners** – Options can now be made via ParentPay for Term 2 by the Thursday 29th October **Deadline** for ALL children who would like a cooked meal. A full menu is on the school website under the parent information tab.
- **Forms** – If you need term time absence (excl. illness) for a day or more please complete the "Absence from School During Term Time" Form in advance. Similarly, if you require prescribed medication to be administered to your child/ren complete a "Request to Administer Medication" form (bring all medication to the office in the original pharmacy labelled bottle/box. These forms can be found on our website or requested from the office.
- **Parents Evening** – Please remember to email your class teacher to book a 10 min parent evening slot on November the 10th 3:30pm - 6:00pm and 11th 4:00pm - 6:30pm for a call or Google meet video call.
- **School Photographs** – The photograph orders will arrive on Tuesday 3rd November.
- **School Uniform** – Can we please remind the girls of the following: Black shoes with black, grey or white school socks, or black or grey tights. Boots are not standard school uniform.
- **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** - <https://mailchi.mp/03887ed3c9b6/paulton-benefice-zoom-service-12942231>



Black History Month

During October the children have been studying Black History Month.

Class 4 have been studying the incredible lives and legacies of a number of bold women in black history, from the book of the same name by Vashti Harrison. Katherine Johnson and Dr Mae Jemison were celebrated for their often underestimated contributions to space exploration, but particular emphasis was put on learning about the pivotal events in the life of Rosa Parks. Research homework was completed and some amazing biographies of her life were written with great enthusiasm by the children.



In Class 2, we have been reading and discussing lots of stories from 'Little Leaders - Bold Women in Black History'. All of these women showed our school value of 'courage'. Here are some of our thoughts about what we have learnt:



Olivia: Wilma Rudolph “I’ve been dreaming about her! She didn't give up and kept trying. She had a poorly leg but still won gold medals! I’m not going to give up!”

Toby: Rosa Parks ““She wouldn’t move to the back of the bus because it was full. Back then black and white people weren’t allowed to sit next to each other or mix! She even went to jail because she wouldn’t move!”

Grace: Alma Woodsey Thomas – ““I like art and she was an artist. She did her art and no one helped her because of the colour of her skin”



Rhys: Dr Mae Jamison “She went to space! Only white men went to space. She was special because she had black skin and was a girl. Going to space is exciting!”



In Class 3 this week we have been looking at the life of Martin Luther King Jr. The children have learnt about how he was a civil rights leader, who wanted to see an end to the segregation in America and the discrimination against black people, just because of the colour of their skin. We also looked briefly at the some of the sporting achievements from black athletes and the lives of some influential black musicians.

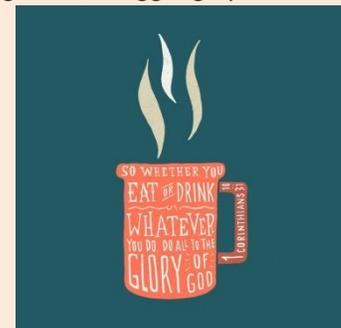


Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin

Like many people who work in or around school, I am looking forward to a bit of downtime over the next week or so. It has been a long and sometimes exhausting term. With new systems to cope with, changes in our day to day lifestyle and the ongoing concern of keeping our loved ones safe, it has meant that we are often left drained at the end of each day and in need of a rest.

Another issue is the worry that we may at some point have to go into a local lockdown. This of course would mean tighter restrictions and it may stop us doing some of the things we enjoy and seeing those that we love. I'm reminded of something a good friend said to me recently. 'Try not to focus on what you're not allowed to do; focus instead on what you can still do.' It's easy when we see politicians telling us 'not' to do things or to 'remain indoors' to be drawn into a negative way of thinking - focusing on all the things we can't enjoy. Instead, try and remember all the good things we can still do, in the midst of restrictions – spending quality time with family, going on beautiful autumn walks, watching a favourite film together, snuggling up with a really good book.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." I hope over this half-term holiday that you will allow yourself some time off - an opportunity to look after yourself a little bit and spend some time doing the things you enjoy to do. You are allowed! At the same time, I hope you are able to reflect on your blessings and remember to say thank you.



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Don't forget the Pumpkin Trail or the Friends of Farrington Gurney School meeting on Thursday this week!

Please join us at our next meeting on **Thursday 22nd October** at the Farrington Social Club. We have a private booking for the whole space at 8pm, and we will be offering everyone who attends a complimentary drink. Social distancing will be in place and the bar will be open. Join us for a drink 8-8.30; meeting will start at 8.30pm.

Please email fogfs@hotmail.co.uk if you are planning to attend so we can comply with track and trace procedures.

Please wear a mask on arrival, and check the FOGFS Facebook page for a reminder!

School Diary Dates

October 2020

- Thu 22nd** FOFGS AGM (8:00pm at the Farrington Gurney Social Club)
Sat 31st FOFGS Pumpkin Trail (from 4:00pm)

November 2020

- Mon 2nd** INSET Day
Tue 3rd Term 2 begins
Wed 4th EcoWild continues for Year R/1
Thu 5th Outdoor Classroom Day
Dance sessions start for Class 3
Fri 6th Gymnastics lessons start for Class 2 and Class 4
Mon 9th Maths Week (details to follow)
Wed 11th Remembrance Day
Wed 18th Flu Immunisations
Fri 27th Reusable Clothes Collection