



Eco Warriors

Today saw the first meeting for our Eco Warriors. They discussed plans for the year to help with our Climate Action Plan and had a visit to the beautiful Manor gardens to think about how we can teach the other children in our school to care for and learn about the environment.



Wellness Day

We have enjoyed our first Wellness Day of the year and, despite the weather, managed to get outside and make the most of the dry patches throughout the day with a Turtle Class welly walk and Dolphin Class even doing Walking Wednesday on the field!

We also celebrated our first 'Golden Token' time with a group of children from across the school who have consistently impressed their teachers all term. Well done everyone for your hard work this term.



Half term challenge!

We love autumn and all the beautiful colours in the world around us! Here's a fun activity for you to do over the half term break - make a fantastic leaf kebab! All you need to do is go on a wonderful welly walk as a family, find a stick and add a variety of leaves to make a beautiful colourful kebab. Can you make one as stunning as Mr Snell's? We'd love to see pictures of your creations - don't eat them though!

Mrs Geeson and Mr Snell



Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter 8 - October 21st 2026



Diary Dates

October

Thur 22nd-Fri 23rd	INSET Days 3 & 4
Sat 31st October	Year 6 Parent deadline for Secondary School Applications 2027
Mon 26th-Sun 1st	Half Term Break

November

Mon 2nd	Start of Term
Tue 3rd	STEM Club begins
Thur 5th	Christmas Singing Club begins
Tue 10th	Girls' Football Tournament 3:45-6, Norton Hill School
Tue 17th	Small Schools Football Tournament (Y5&6) 3:45-6 Norton Hill School
Mon 23rd	MSN Cross Country Event (Y4&5) 2:30-3:45 Downside School
Tue 24th	Sports Hall Athletics 4-5:45 (Y5&6) Wellsway School
Fri 13th	Dolphin Class Trip to Bath Taps into Science - please sign up on Arbor
Thur 26th	Benefice Christmas Sing 4:30-5:30 (Singing Club details to follow)
Mon 30th	WEMA Christmas Celebration at Bath Forum (Seal, Dolphin Class and Singing Club)

Notices

- **Clubs** - All clubs start back after the break. The following have now finished: Fizz Pop, Netball, Lunchtime Gardening.
- **Clubs for Term 2** - To avoid having to cancel the following clubs due to low uptake, please remember to sign up for **Belford Art Workshop** [here](#) and on Arbor. On a Thursday for all years Michelle Rochester will also be running her Dance & Disco Moves to the children's choice of music, also bookable via Arbor.
- **DINNER MENU CHANGE** - we have been asked by Catering to share with you that there is a new updated menu which has been added to School Grid for you to order for term 2. All previous orders for term 2 have been cancelled and will need rebooking by Thursday 29th October. The new menus start from week 2 when we return and can be found [here](#) and are now on the school website.
- **Dolphin Class - Bath Taps into Science Trip** has been added to Arbor for your information and action. Thank you.
- **Dolphin Class Swimming** - Can those who have not yet, please bring your transport costs up to date. Thank you.
- **Learn to play a musical instrument** - Last week the children were involved in a special assembly by Music for Schools where they were taught all about music and instruments (Recorder, Clarinet, Trumpet, Cornet & Saxophone). If you did not receive the paper letter sent home, you can view the options by going to: www.mfsf.org.uk.
- **Libraries** - please see the Library post below for more information & events in our libraries!
- **Open Mornings** - the next open morning is 19th November (9:30am). Registration via email/telephone to the school office.
- **Parking** - Please do not park your vehicles on the access road to the village hall as this blocks the road for emergency vehicles, delivery trucks to the hall and coaches dropping off or collecting our children. There is plenty of space in the gravel car park opposite the school or the hard standing next to the village hall.
- **Remembrance Day** - **Please support the Royal British Legion, the merchandise donation options are: poppies, zip-pulls & reflectors 50p; wristbands £1; slap bands £1.50 (can be purchased by a parent from the office and taken home straightaway) & 2026 dated poppy lapel pin £5.** Donations can be made in cash to the red charity collection box or via the QR code by card on the playground before school.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Whole School Trip to Panto in Bath** - details have been added to Arbor ready for you to consent/pay.
- **Year 6 Secondary Applications** - A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers that the deadline for secondary school applications is Saturday 31st October.



Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

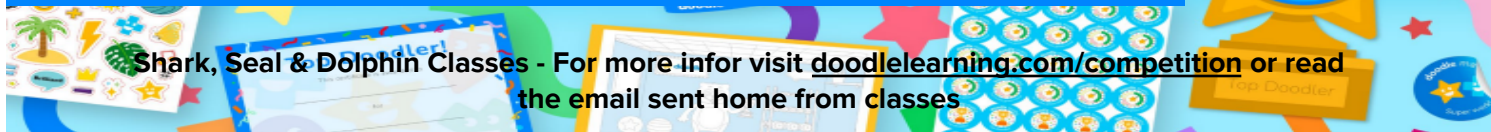
A place where all can flourish, find fulfilment and experience life in all its fullness

Newsletter 8 - October 21st 2026



Earn prizes and WIN a Doodle goodie pack!

Between the 19th of October – 20th of November, DoodleLearning is running an exciting event where your child could win 1 of 10 Doodle goodie packs!



Shark, Seal & Dolphin Classes - For more info visit doodlelearning.com/competition or read the email sent home from classes

NIHR | Mental Health Research Group

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

Does your child have difficulties with behaviour or attention?

Help improve local support services by taking part in research!

We are looking for families with children **aged 9-12** who may experience one or more of the following:

- Attend specialist/alternative provision because of difficulties in school.
- Often feel overwhelmed, frustrated, or dysregulated.
- Have been on a behaviour support plan or have been suspended or excluded.

And live in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon or Wiltshire

- 90 minute interview with you and 30 minutes with your child (optional)
- We can travel to see you or meet you near where you live.
- You will get £30 and your child £10

Want to learn more?

- Email the team: pathways-study@bath.ac.uk
- Call/text: 07980 962364
- Scan the QR code

FAMILY OUTDOOR FUN!

BULB PLANTING

TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 10-11.30
ST JOHN'S CHURCH FARRINGTON GURNEY.

BUG HUNTING!

CRAFT
FAIRY DOORS,
NATURE WEAVING
LEAF PRINTING
COFFEE AND CAKE!

After school art club

Term 2 - Mondays for 5 weeks

GINA BELFORD ART

Art club helps children build confidence with painting, collage and drawing in an expressive way. This term we will be making bookmarks from abstract paintings!

£35 per term, all materials provided.

To book: www.ginabelfordart.co.uk/after-school-art-club

GINA BELFORD ART
www.ginabelfordart.co.uk

APPLE FEST

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Get half term off to a great start!
With the Green Team



Thought of the Week

‘Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.’ (Psalm 100: 1-2)

When many of us are feeling down or a bit fed up, we often need something to lift us. This might be time with family or friends, or maybe enjoying a good film, or watching something funny. Many of us enjoy uplifting music and one genre that often hits the spot is disco. If you’re not a fan, I unapologetically warn you that this is very much a disco themed message!

Disco first emerged in New York, in the early 1970s, although it keeps on getting revived through genres like house music, nu-disco and most recently through modern pop-disco crossovers with artists like Dua Lipa and The Weeknd. It was originally seen as a direct fusion of different musical styles including funk and soul, rhythm and blues, Latin and of course Gospel. Whereas the other styles provided the driving basslines, the syncopated rhythms, the melodic structure and the celebratory dancefloor energy, the emotionality, euphoric vocal arrangements and background harmonies all originated in Gospel music.

This is probably why so many people see Disco as uplifting - it is directly connected to the soul. Many Disco legends like Donna Summer (“I Feel Love”), Candi Staton (“Young Hearts Run Free”), Gloria Gaynor (“I Will Survive”) and Loleatta Holloway (“Love Sensation”) all started off singing in church gospel choirs. Even if the messages in many Disco songs don’t refer to God or faith, the spirit is still there, through the singing and the emotions. And there is often a focus on love. And although this is love between people, the Bible talks about humans imitating God’s unconditional, forgiving and enduring love. As it says in 1 John 4:19, *‘We love because he first loved us.’*

When the disco movement first started, some of the venues described their club sets in explicitly religious terms, like “Mass” or “Church”. These events were open to everyone and disco is often seen as one of the most inclusive forms of music, regardless of your race, gender or orientation. There are many examples of black female artists who became famous because of disco, including Diana Ross, Chaka Khan, Patti LaBelle, Sister Sledge and The Pointer Sisters, alongside those I have already mentioned.

Because of its spiritual overtones, it's no surprise that a sub genre known as ‘Gospel Disco’ (or Divine Disco), emerged in the late 70s and into the 80s, bridging the spiritual, uplifting roots of Gospel traditions with the energy and emotion of disco.



In today’s verse we are told to ‘Shout for joy to the Lord’ and to ‘Worship the Lord...with joyful songs’. We are being encouraged to sing and enjoy music. This may of course include some kitchen dancing as well! Many Christians believe that music first originated from God, with the morning stars singing together and the angels shouting for joy when the earth was first formed (Job 38:4-7). So Gospel music, and maybe even Disco, can point towards God’s love for us and the opportunity to enjoy what he has given us.