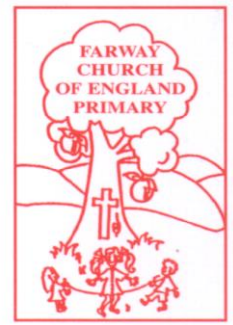


# Farway Church of England Primary School

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Executive Headteacher:- Mrs Katie Gray



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Dear Parents,

Throughout the month of December, the children in Preschool made excellent progress and are beginning to use their listening skills to support the recognition of our initial sounds. We have been enhancing our listening skills through various activities both in the classroom and outdoors, using our Bug Club book of the week as a starting point. The Reception children have been making good progress and are becoming very confident with their sounds, learning a new one each day for example s, a, t, p, i, n, followed by m, d, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, ff, l, ll, s, ss, j, v and w. In Class 1, we are continuing to practise our Noticing learning behaviour, identifying each new sound within the alphabet and within simple words. In Maths, the children continue to enjoy exploring numbers, focussing on using their words to support their understanding and reasoning.

The EYFS children are continuing to embrace the seasonal changes each day, really wrapping up as we feel that winter chill through January. The EYFS children are using our Reading Spine, selecting a book of the week and exploring these texts further through activities as well as on our Daily Walks and Thimbleweed Thursdays.

Over the course of the autumn term, the children in Class One were studying a wide range of significant figures, discussing the changes they made in their lives and how this person impacts our lives today. In class, we also used Dawson's Model to help discuss each person further, and whether or not they qualify as a significant figure or not. At the beginning of December, we enjoyed dressing up as some of the people we learnt about, and had the pleasure to 'be in the company of' Rosa Parks, Queen Victoria, William Shakespeare, Guy Fawkes, Captain James Cook, Florence Nightingale, Audrey Hepburn, Cristiano Ronaldo, and Marcus Rashford.



In Class 1, our topic within Maths this half term will be Geometry, before moving into Place Value: within 20 (Year 1) and Money (Year 2). During the course of the Autumn Term, the children in Class 1 enjoyed challenging themselves to build their own addition and subtraction sentences, using resources in the classroom to support them and applying this into real life contexts. Class 1 have also been using their 'STEM sentences' to help them continue with strengthening and developing their reasoning skills.

In Literacy, children in Class 1 have started reading, *Ellsworth's Extraordinary Electric Ears*. The children will be working towards writing alternative sentences for one of the pages in the book (Year 1) and writing their own alphabet book (Year 2). Class 1 continue to strengthen their letter formation by writing a few relevant words each week, as well as many children selecting to practise at home too – well done everyone! This is proving to be supportive in terms of our stamina for writing in Literacy, as well as across other subjects.

The children in Class 2 have returned to school full of enthusiasm and ready to learn as they approach this New Year. Before Christmas, the whole school worked together in Ready Steady Write, which was a day of writing based on a poem called 'I met a dragon face to face', by Jack Prelutsky. Class 2 used this as a springboard to write their own stories that incorporated images from the poem such as an ogre, a pot of gold, dragons and magic doors. Their stories were imaginative, exciting and full of creativity.

In maths, the children in Class 2 completed their unit about multiplication and division, working on learning the facts and using what they know to work out other calculations. The children spent time investigating patterns in each of the multiplication tables and identifying links between them, e.g. between 3, 6 and 9. Meanwhile, Betsy and Daisy W completed their first fraction unit. They learned to find equivalent fractions by multiplying the denominator and the numerator e.g.  $\frac{3}{4} = \frac{12}{16}$  because  $3 \times 4 = 12$  and  $4 \times 4 = 16$ . They also compared the size of different fraction and began to add and subtract them. They worked very hard together to understand and explain how the numbers change each time.

All the staff at Farway were very proud of all the children during their Nativity Performance. Despite the first performance being postponed due to wild weather, the children learnt their lines, projected their voices and helped each other to act out the beautiful bible story. Special congratulations go to the singing leaders, Oliver B and Daisy W, who led the whole school when singing.

Farway children finished the term by going down to the church for the Christingle Service. Tara (church warden) brought the resources to school in the morning and both class 1 and class 2 worked together to make lots of Christingles. Then Mrs Tubbs stepped up to lead the service when Reverend Jeremy was poorly.

This term is a busy one with lots of sports and visits and a new learning project called 'Off with her Head!' Can you guess what the children are learning about?

Thank you for all your continued support.

God bless and have a lovely weekend.

*Best wishes from Katie Gray and the staff at Farway CE School*

### **Question of the month:**

**Class 1:** What goals are you working towards this year?

**Class 2:** Thinking about Henry VIII, should royalty face the same laws as the common person?



## Orchard Aims



### Early Years:

#### Class 1 :

Ada - for recognising her sounds and letter names, and being a great friend to all.

Ted - for demonstrating great kindness towards all his peers.

Freya - for excellent engagement and great work in both her phonics and maths.

Bella - for excellent concentration and attention to detail with a huge improvement in fine motor.

Laurie - for settling in so incredibly well.

Leanna - for being a kind and caring member of our class, being honest and thoughtful to others.

Anna - for excellent reading and pushing herself with her writing (in Ready, Steady, Write) and also for demonstrating excellent curiosity and using this to help her learning.

Bertie C - for excellent shape and space work with Mr Hayman.

Reuben - for participating in Collective Worship, and wonderful contributions.

Anna - for excellent work across all her subjects, and contributing so well in group discussions.

Wren - for persevering and putting great effort into everything she does.

Albert - for applying his imagination and initiative so well across his learning.

Bertie W - for being a great example and positive influence for his peers.

Leah - for engaging so well and demonstrating such willingness to learn, across all her subjects.

Child of the term: Bertie W for consistently pushing himself in all his work, consistently demonstrating our Orchard Aims, and being a great example for his peers.

#### Class 2:

Oliver B – for taking a lead role in the Nativity

Child of the term: Daisy W - for consistently pushing herself in all her work, consistently demonstrating our Orchard Aims, and being a great example for her peers.



### Attendance Matters



#### **November Attendance**

Class 1 – 82%

Class 2 – 86%

Nursery – 90%

Whole School – 84%

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development.

## **Key Dates –Spring Term 2024**

18<sup>th</sup> January – Census Day Special Lunch Menu  
23<sup>rd</sup> January – KS2 Trip Somerset Museum  
24<sup>th</sup> January – Honiton Youth Speak Competition  
26<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5/6 Boys Futsal  
30<sup>th</sup> January – Phonics Workshop R-Yr2 9.15am  
30<sup>th</sup> January – Coffee Morning with Mrs Tubbs  
31<sup>st</sup> January – Wild Wednesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> February – Llama Visit  
8<sup>th</sup> February – Pancake Races 2.30pm  
9<sup>th</sup> February – Year 5/6 Girls Football  
12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term  
20<sup>th</sup> February – Year 5/6 Ambassador Training at Broadhembury  
29<sup>th</sup> February – Reception & Year 6 Height and Weight Measurement  
1<sup>st</sup> March – KS1 Coordination Event  
6<sup>th</sup> March – Wild Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day  
21<sup>st</sup> March – Phonics Workshop R-Yr2 9.15am  
21<sup>st</sup> March – Coffee Morning with Mrs Tubbs  
28<sup>th</sup> March – Last Day of Term

## **Census Day Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

This Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January is our school census day. This is when data about our school is collected. The information that is collected impacts our next year's funding, therefore, to ensure Farway Primary School can claim the maximum amount possible we are holding a special lunch for children to enjoy. All children in KS1 and children eligible for free school meals will be able to enjoy a school lunch prepared by CH Bakers in Honiton, our school dinner provider, please see menu below. We would like all children to try the school lunch and would discourage packed lunches for KS1 pupils on this day. KS2 are also most welcome to enjoy the school lunch too, and this will be charged at £2.70 unless you are eligible for free school meals. If you would like to order lunch on this day for your child please pop into the school office as soon as possible.



## Pancake Races

Pancake races 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2.30pm start. Please can we ask parents to provide your child with a frying pan and a pancake. Parents are welcome to attend and then stay for Celebration Assembly afterwards.

## Coffee Mornings

Mrs Tubbs will be hosting a parent forum on the dates below; this is an opportunity for parents to come in to discuss anything that they wish to. There is no obligation to stay for the entire time, it can just be a drop in. The sessions will run from 8:30 - 9:30 am and refreshments will be provided.

Some of the sessions will have a curriculum focus (further information will follow closer to the time) so parents can find out more about that particular area.

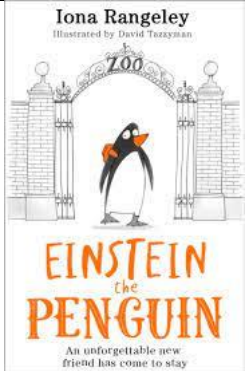
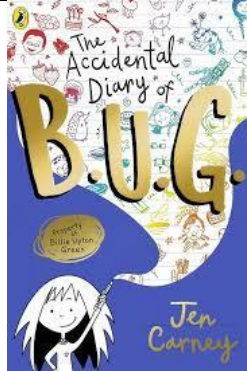
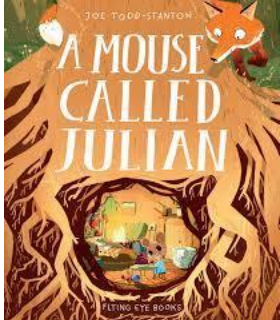
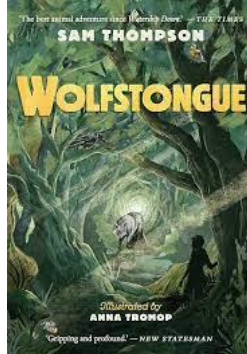
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024



Please do not hesitate to speak with myself or a member of the staff team if you have any questions. We hope to see lots of you there to enjoy a cup of coffee and a croissant!

## Book Recommendations January

With our continuing focus on reading culture in school, we would like to start recommending books to our families. With a view to trying to widen pupil's interest in different genres and authors, supporting parents to know new authors and as ideas for gifts. If your child reads one of these books, it would be great if they could make a comment on the book, and we can share on Facebook.

<b>EYFS</b>	Einstein the Penguin by Iona Rangeley and David Tazzyman		<b>Lower KS2</b>	The Accidental Diary of B.U.G. by Jen Carney	
<b>KS1</b>	A Mouse Called Julian by Joe Todd-Stanton		<b>Upper KS2</b>	Wolfstongue by Sam Thompson and Anna Tromp	



## Online Safety

Together we can make sure it's safe for every child to go online. We're here to support parents with online safety advice, and we're here for children to feel safe online. Please visit the following links for help and advice

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>  
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



## Collective Worship Activity

This term we will be focussing in school on the value of Trust. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together. If the children bring back something that you have done at home linked to the Collective Worship activity or can talk about a discussion they've had at home linked to it, then Mrs Gray will award them with a new, special sticker.

### TALK TOGETHER about Trust

**Trust** is a really important value. It must be earned. If we do not **trust** someone it is very hard to build a good friendship with them.

Talk together about:

- people who you know that are **trustworthy**
- practical ways that we can show others that we are **trustworthy**
- why it is important to be able to **trust** others when working together as a team

### Ernest Shackleton

From the time that he was a small boy Ernest Shackleton longed to go to sea. At sixteen he got his chance and joined the crew of a ship sailing to and from the Far East and America. This was the start of an amazing life of daring and discovery.

In December, 1914, Shackleton set out on perhaps his most famous voyage. It was his third expedition to Antarctica. His ship was called the "Endurance" and his mission to travel 1500 miles across Antarctica. Just 5 weeks later, "Endurance" became frozen in pack ice, unable to move. After being stuck for months the boat began to buckle, crushed by the ice. The crew was forced to abandon ship. They set up camp on an ice floe, but this was too dangerous so Shackleton and his men set out in three lifeboats. After six days, the men reached an isolated, uninhabited spot called Elephant Island.

Shackleton knew that for his men to survive, he must fetch help from a whaling station. It was 800 miles away but it was their only hope! Putting their complete **trust** in him and knowing their leader would return if it was humanly possible, the men watched as Shackleton and four others rowed away. Six long months followed before Shackleton was finally able to rescue his men 126 days later, after a journey of nearly 1600 miles.

Shackleton's courage and the **trust** he inspired in his men live on in legend.

## Wellbeing

*There has been much press in recent months about children's mental health. As part of our drive to support this we are going to include something each month in the newsletter about Health and Wellbeing. We hope you find this section useful. If you have any topics you would like us to find some helpful tips about, please let us know.*

A screenshot of the Nip in the Bud website. The header includes the logo and tagline 'Learning about Children's Mental Health through Film', along with navigation links for 'Films for Parents / Carers', 'Films for Teachers / Professionals', 'Where to Get Help', 'About', 'Blog', and 'Contact'. The main content area features a pink box with the text 'We are Nip in the Bud®' and a description of the organization's mission. To the right of the text is a photograph of a woman smiling and hugging a young girl. The URL 'https://nipinthebud.org' is visible at the bottom left.

### **Parent Volunteers**

If you would like to become a volunteer in school, to help with reading or other duties, please speak to Mrs Tubbs.

### **Cold Weather**

Now the weather seems to be getting a little colder please make sure your child brings a warm/waterproof coat to school each day. We do go outside to play every day unless it is absolutely pouring with rain so coats are vital. I've already started to see some lovely woolly hats and gloves appearing, keeping the children warm and cosy during playtime.

### **Sharing Assembly.**

Sharing assembly is now on Thursdays at **3.10pm**. All parents/carers are invited to come and see the children sharing their learning. Please note the new time.

### **Free School Meals**

If your circumstances have changed your child may have become eligible for free school meals. This will also bring extra funding to the school, which will be used to help your child. For an instant decision or to learn more please go online at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>.

### **Advice on Covid-19**

As you may be aware, there are some concerns regarding the recent spread of Covid-19. Please see below updated guidance on what to do if you suspect a case of Covid-19 or test positive.

- For diarrhoea and vomiting, people need to be 48 hours free of symptoms to return to the setting (pupils and staff)
- Children with **mild symptoms** such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, **can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.**
- Anyone who is **unwell**, including people with a high temperature, should **stay at home** and avoid contact with others until they have recovered. They can return to the setting once they no longer have a temperature (without medication) and are well enough to do so. (pupils and staff)
- **Children** and young people under 18 years old who have a positive test for **Covid-19** should stay away from the setting for **3 days** after they took their test (and until they are well enough to return, including no temperature).