

Farway Church of England Primary School

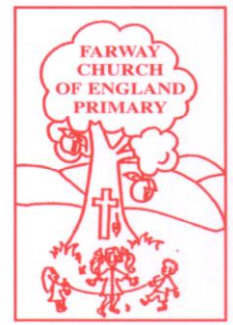
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Dear Parents,

The preschool children continue to make excellent progress with their initial sounds (S,A,T,P,I,N), and have been using their listening skills to support the recognition of these initial sounds. They have been refining their listening skills through various activities, both within the classroom and outdoors, using Bug Club 'book of the week' as a starting point.

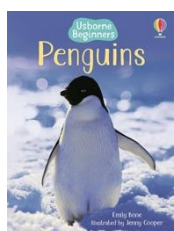
The children in reception have been making good progress and are becoming very confident with their sounds, learning a new one each day. They continue to practise their *Noticing* learning behaviour, and identifying each new sound within the alphabet, as well as within simple words. They are also gaining confidence when it comes to segmenting and blending. Within Maths, the children in reception are continuing to enjoy exploring numbers, focussing on recognising and building numbers up to 10 and drawing on mathematical language (*less, more* and *the same*). They are continuing to develop their understanding and reasoning, through 'show me' and 'tell me' activities.

In EYFS, the children are continuing to embrace the seasonal changes each day, continuing to spot some of the early signs of Spring. The children are enjoying 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.

For the course of the Spring term, the children in class one are studying *Magnificent Monarchs*. They have been looking at a wide range of past monarchs, and exploring this across the curriculum, from History to Art. They will also be looking back at Dawson's Model to help discuss each person further, and justifying why each monarch is significant.

The children in class one and nursery enjoyed a recent trip to Branscombe Village Hall, where they had the opportunity to work with Tiny Travels. All the children had the opportunity to explore different cultures from across the globe, through beautiful stories and resources.

In Key Stage 1, our topics within Maths are Addition and Subtraction for year 1 and Multiplication and Division in year 2. The children in year 1 and 2 have enjoyed using resources to help them problem solve and overcome new challenges. Year 1 have been using the part-whole model to support their knowledge of tens and ones, as well as our number bonds to 10 and 20, to help us with our addition and subtraction. Year 2 have been using resources, as well as their knowledge of doubling, to support them with their two and four times tables. Across Class One, the children continue to use 'stem sentences' to help them strengthen and develop their reasoning skills.



In Literacy, class one have been reading our new text, *Penguins*. The children in Key Stage 1 are working towards writing their own non-fiction text about an animal and then presenting their information to parents at the end of term. The children continue to strengthen their letter formation by writing a few relevant words each week, as well as many children selecting to practice at home too – well done everyone! This is proving to be really supportive in terms of our stamina for writing in Literacy, as well as across other subjects.

During maths lessons in class two, the children have been learning to measure accurately. This has included finding the perimeter and area of shapes. Year 5 have been investigating what patterns there are between perimeter and area of specific shapes and they have just moved into new numbers called fractions – equal parts of a whole. Year 3 and 4 children are learning about unit fractions and non-unit fractions. This month, the children will also be learning to convert and simplify fractions, as well as multiply and divide by them too.

In Science, while learning about air resistance and water resistance, the children in class two have been developing their investigative skills by using repeated observations or measurements before drawing their conclusions. Year 5 and 6 have also learned to find the average of a set of calculations. The children made carefully measured parachutes then changed just one variable in each partner pair, before reporting back their findings to the rest of the class. During a very messy session, the children investigated whether the shape of a ball of clay affected how quickly it moved through water – it does – and recorded their discoveries.

Already knowledgeable about space, planets and the moon from previous years, the year 4 and 5 children have enjoyed sharing their expertise with year 3 since half term. As part of their new science topic on Space, the children in class two listened to 'Why does the sun shine?' by They Might Be Giants during Daily Dashboard. The children in class 2 regularly listen to a range of music throughout the week, sharing their responses to the lyrics and using a range of musical vocabulary to describe what they can hear. Composer of the month has been Beethoven for February and will be Scott Joplin in March. Ask your child about music they've heard.

In history, the children in class two have been gathering evidence to answer Elizabeth I's question at the beginning of the term – what happened with my parents? The children wrote beautiful, heart-felt responses in character as Anne Boleyn, while learning about her trial and condemnation. The children ranked Tudor punishments and agreed they would have been very law-abiding if they lived in those times! Finally, the children thought about how crime and punishment today compares to the methods then.

Building on their learning from last term about light and shadow, the class two children are now investigating mixing tints to use as highlights, shades to use as shadows and tones for curves and lighter shade. To create tints, they add white, shades they add black and tones they add grey. They will be painting landscapes using their new mixing skills- keep a look out for those.

Wild Wednesday this month was during storytelling week and so was based on the perennial favourite, Stickman. The children read the story then made their own puppets -using sticks- of each of the characters. They then retold the story as a group, using their new puppets. A new activity led by Year 5 was the creation of an agility course around the Tom Putt Hut. Instead of taking photos, they used the iPad to time each other completing the course. Mrs Marsh said it was inspirational to watch how kind and supportive the children were towards each other.

Following on from the class 2 children's investigation into air (pneumatic) power from syringes and balloons, they used their findings to create a 'talking box'. The children then designed a pneumatic powered device that might be used around the home. These devices ranged from opening cupboard doors to pneumatic chairs that help you stand up and even a pneumatic bed! The children will make prototypes and share them with you in a Sharing Assembly soon.

Finally, the Year Five girls had the exciting opportunity recently to take part in some Mental Health Ambassador Training. They headed over to Broadhembury – leaving the year 3 and 4 children with Mr Bentall from Branscombe – with Mrs Marsh and Albertine. While there, the children worked collaboratively to investigate their senses and how different things can change their emotions to more positive. They learnt about the different parts of their brain and the different jobs they can do. The providers were impressed at the deep knowledge the girls showed about '10 a day for mental health'.

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 is your favourite book at the moment and why?

Class 2: Is there life in another galaxy?

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January Attendance

Class 1 – 89%

Class 2 – 87%

Nursery – 94%

Whole School – 89%

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

Key Dates –Spring Term 2024

6th March – Wild Wednesday

7th March – World Book Day

15th March – Red Nose Day

21st March – Phonics Workshop R-Yr2 9.15am

21st March – Coffee Morning with Mrs Tubbs

27th March – Easter Service

28th March – Last Day of Term

15th April – Return to School

16th April – Year 5 & 6 Ambassador Training

26th April – Year 5 & 6 Quad Kids

26th April – Lyme Bay Fisheries talk

26th April – Reception Eye Screening

1st May – Wild Wednesday

World Book Day 7th March

World Book Day is on 7th March 2024, due to our continued focus on creating a love of reading, children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. During the day, the children will take part in activities linked to reading. One of these activities is going to be the Blue Peter Reading Book Badge competition. The entries will be sent off and the children will win a Blue Peter Badge! The badge gives free entry to some of the countries' top attractions. You should have received a form, please speak to the school office if you need another one.



Orchard Aims

Class 1 and Nursery:

- Teddy - for excellent engagement in his learning.
Freya - for her effort in recognising lots of new sounds in phonics.
Emily - for engaging so well and using her key sounds.
Ada - for her great counting and demonstrating our value of friendship across the setting.
Felix - for excellent effort across all his learning and drawing on his prior knowledge and understanding to support this.
Thomas - for excellent reading and eating his school lunches every day this week.
Leanna - for taking great strides in becoming more independent.
Bella - for trying really hard and using her sounds to help her segment and blend words.
Thomas - for using his creativity, independence and initiative to produce his desired outcomes, which turn out to be exceptional.
Laurie - for his effort in phonics, recognising more sounds and starting to segment.
Bertie - for drawing on past knowledge to support new learning.
Anna - for great curiosity and being inquisitive in her learning.
Bertie - for using his initiative and demonstrating absorption in his learning.
Wren - for using her cross-curricular knowledge to support her writing using alliteration, nouns and adjectives.
Anna - for using her cross-curricular knowledge and asking questions to support and further her learning.
Mia - for settling in so well and engaging beautifully during all her learning.
Adriana - for her perseverance and confidence in her learning.
Blake - for being engaged and contributing so well. His peers have also recognised his generosity, kindness and hard work.
Toby - for using his initiative to strengthen his relationship with his peers and be a good friend.
Albert - for doing so well with his reading and challenging himself to read a wide range of texts.
Leah - for an excellent transition into Class Two.

Class 2:

- Tommy – improved concentration in learning time.
Daisy S – kindness and consideration for the people around her.
Betsy and Oliver – scientific thinking while testing materials used for a canopy in a parachute.
Leah – settling beautifully into Class 2.
Oliver – reading challenge accepted and completed.

Value Verifiers:

This is a new award for us, whereby children across the school are able to nominate one another for a value that has been demonstrated by one of their peers.

- Robyn - for her kindness and hard work.
Leah - for being hardworking, loving and kind.
Bertie W - for demonstrating respect and reverence.
Adriana - for demonstrating the value of bravery.
Mia - for her hard work, forgiveness and kindness.
Tommy – Justice
George – Thankfulness
Oliver – Friendship
Betsy – Responsibility
Daisy S - Courage

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.

- Thursday 21st March 2024
- Tuesday 21st May 2024
- Wednesday 17th July 2024




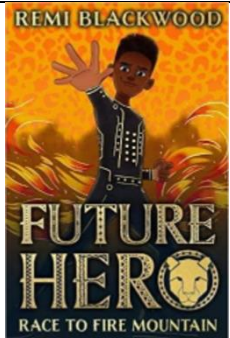
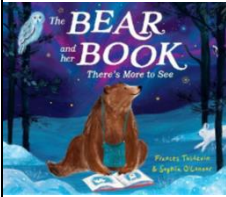
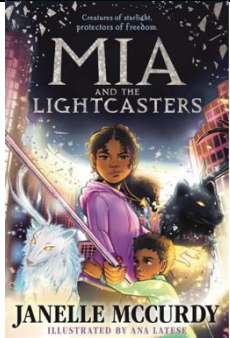
Please do not hesitate to speak with myself or a member of the staff team if you have any questions. We hope to see lots of you there to enjoy a cup of coffee and a croissant!

Phonics Workshop

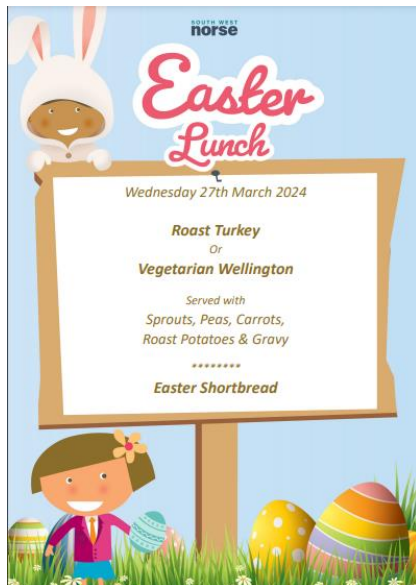
The next phonics workshop for KS1 parents will be held on Thursday 21st March. Parents are welcome to come and watch a typical phonics lesson to see how we teach your children to read. You can watch the lesson and ask any questions to the staff about the teaching of reading. Please keep an eye out for a letter coming home soon with all the details.

Book Recommendations March

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.

EYFS	Why, Oh Why, Am I a Crocodile? By Alex Brooks & Hannah Worsley		Lower KS2	Future Hero: Race to Fire Mountain by Remi Blackwood	
KS1	The Bear and her Book by Frances Tosdevin & Sophia O'Connor		Upper KS2	Mia and the Lightcasters by Janelle McCurdy & Ana Latase	

Easter Lunch



Please see poster with details of Easter Lunch on Wednesday 27th March. If you would like to order your child a lunch on this day please let the school office know.

Please also be aware that lunch on Thursday 28th March will be Friday's menu as it is the last day of term. Therefore, Thursday's menu will consist of fillet of fish (M) or cheese omelette (V). We will also have a jacket potato and packed lunch option this day, followed by Pip Lollies.

L & F Multisport Easter Camp

Please make all bookings through www.lfmultisports.co.uk



Church Services at Farway Church

Please note that St Michael and All Angels Church at Farway have the following services;


Sunday 10th March – 11.15am Family Communion, Mothering Sunday Service

Sunday 31st March – 4.00pm Easter Service Songs of Praise

All our very welcome to attend.

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.



QUIZ Crack the code

Answer the clues to find the letter corresponding to each number and then fill in the message.

Thrown in a board game

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

Jam is stored in this

5	6	7
---	---	---

Opposite of dark

8	2	9	10	11
---	---	---	----	----

Used to carry money

12	13	7	14	4
----	----	---	----	---

Break the code to discover the message in the story:

11	10	4
----	----	---

1	2	14	3	2	12	8	4	14
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	----

11	7	13	14	11	4	1
----	---	----	----	----	---	---

5	4	14	13	14
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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.



PARENTAL MINDS C.I.C.
Mental Healthcare ; Exploring Pathways

The Parent+ Support Hub is for Caregivers who support family, friends or colleagues with mental health issues. Our volunteers have all supported family & friends with mental health issues. We also have an advisory board of professionals and work closely with local and national mental health services and [networks](#).

<https://www.parentalminds.org.uk/>

Secret Reader

We are looking for parent volunteers who would like to come into school and be our 'Secret Reader'. This involves reading a book or a chapter of a book of your choice that is suitable for all the children in the school. If you would like to be involved please speak to the office or a member of staff.

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).