

Farway Church of England Primary School

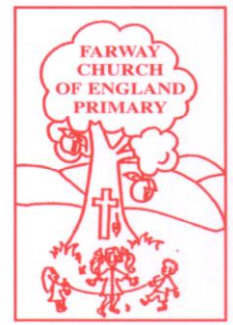
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Dear Parents,

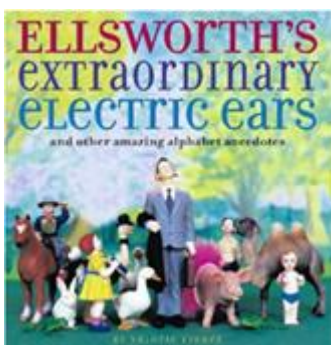
Throughout the month of January, Preschool are continuing to make excellent progress with their initial sounds (S,A,T,P,I,N), using their listening skills to support the recognition of these initial sounds. The children have been enhancing their listening skills through various activities both in the classroom and outdoors, using our Bug Club book of the week as a starting point. Don't forget to use the Bug Club information pack that came home this week to support with reading at home.

Reception children have been making good progress and are becoming very confident with their sounds, learning a new one each day. We continue to practise our *Noticing* learning behaviour and identifying each new sound within the alphabet as well as within simple words. The children are also gaining confidence with segmenting and blending. Within Maths, the children in Reception continue to enjoy exploring numbers, focussing on subitising, numbers up to 10 and recognising 'less' and 'more' and 'the same'. They are also practising using their words to support their understanding and reasoning, through 'show me' and 'tell me' activities.

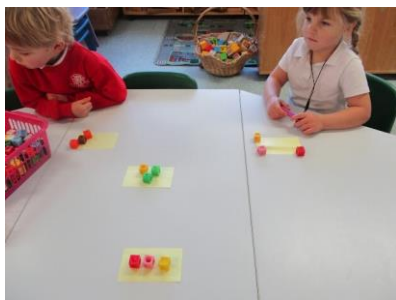
The children continue to embrace the seasonal changes each day, spotting the early signs of Spring. We are also using the Reading Spine, selecting a book of the week and exploring these texts further through activities as well as on their Daily Walks and Thimbleweed Thursdays.

For the course of the Spring term, our current topic in Class 1 is Magnificent Monarchs. The children will be looking at a wide range of past Monarchs, and exploring this across the curriculum, from History to Art. The children in Class 1 will also be looking back at Dawson's Model to help discuss each person further, and justifying why each Monarch is significant.

In Class 1, our topics within Maths are Place Value: within 20 (Year 1) and money (Year 2). The children have enjoyed challenging themselves to use the part-whole model to support their knowledge of tens and ones (Year 1), as well as using coins to 'pay' for things (Year 2). In class, the children continue to use their 'stem sentences' to help them strengthen and develop their reasoning skills.



In Literacy in Class 1, we have been reading Ellsworth's *Extraordinary Electric Ears*. The children will be working towards writing alternative sentences for one of their pages in their books (Year 1) and writing their own alphabet book (Year 2). Class 1 children continue to strengthen their letter formation by writing 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.



Class 2 have been enjoying acting as historians and researching life in Tudor times. Of course, the first significant figure they have studied was Henry VIII himself, through reading various biographies and identifying how different phrases show us the viewpoint of the author. They have written about Anne Boleyn and are now researching to write their own biographies of a significant figure from Tudor times. Next writing skill to develop will be persuasion – can they save a Queen? Can they persuade a King?

In maths, the children in Class 2 have been extending their understanding of multiplication and division. They are now working outside of the tables, using part whole models and bar models to show their thinking when multiplying a number bigger than 10. They are dividing by partitioning numbers and sharing and grouping. The purple group in class have consolidated all these mental strategies and are now using long multiplication and short division. This frees the children up to be able to solve problems by using more than one skill at a time.

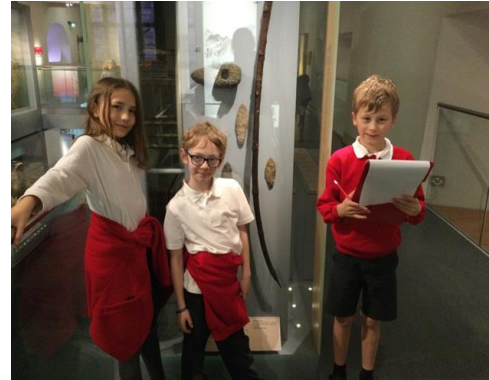
It has been a busy few weeks at Farway for Class 2. On Tuesday the 23rd January, Class 2 went on a trip to the Museum of Somerset. Joining children from the other four schools in the federation, the children really enjoyed looking around the museum and learning about the past. As well as making soap and writing with quill and pen, they also visited an actual almshouse from the Tudor times that has been preserved in the courtyard of the museum. It was very small, with wool to earn money and extra guests in the form of rats but would have been gratefully received by someone homeless. As always, dressing up was a hit!

Last week, 3 children from KS2 (Daisy W, Betsy and Oliver) went to represent Farway School at Youth Speak competition. The children were talking about how important community is, especially to the elderly. Although they did not return with 1st place, they had a special mention from the judges and returned having overcome a great fear of public speaking (speaking in front of people). We are very proud of them.

This week, all the children in the whole school enjoyed a morning of forest fun in the form of Wild Wednesday. In honour of National Storytelling Week, they shared the ever-popular 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson- As they discovered this week, one of the most popular authors in the school. They then explored the depths of the wild area to collect sticks and other resources to create Stickman and his friends. Tommy and Daisy S showed great kindness to their younger school friends, helping them to find resources and create their ideas.

Working with friends across the school, Class 2 helped with knots and other ways of attaching. Some children sneaked off to build a den – a favoured activity every time. Fairy tales were also shared, and some children created puppets and staging for the three little pigs and their houses of wood and straw. Telling stories under the trees, thankful for dry weather, excited for next time when things will be sprouting!

In science, Mrs Marsh was very happy with how much information about forces, gravity and space the children were able to retrieve during their Forces and Mechanisms project. The children are now investigating water and air resistance- reports coming soon. Well done Betsy, who spent breakfast club investigating her scientific theories, leading to balloon powered lego cars. Well done to George who showed perseverance and resilience when he kept trying to get his car to move. He didn't give up and he succeeded in the end.



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 signs of Spring have you noticed?

Class 2: What does God's Kingdom on Earth look like?

Oliver Baily Sport Report

At the recent multisport event, we did a cone game where you had to be fast and grab the cone before the other person. Then, there was a game where we had to throw a ball at a trampoline thing and catch it when it bounced back. Next, we had to throw bean bags into a hole. Excitingly, we lined up with our school before learning to hold a bow and arrow, then aimed for target that was about 3-4 metres away. Betsy got a bullseye! After that, we had to do a big cone game and the most cones in each hula hoop wins. A successful day!



Whole School – 83%

Orchard Aims

Blake - for being engaged and contributing so well.

for their incredible hard work and courage in preparing for and taking part, in Youth Speak.

A big congratulations to all of you!

Key Dates –Spring Term 2024

6th February – KS1 & Nursery trip to Tiny Travels at Branscombe
8th February – Ready, Steady, Write Day
8th February – Pancake Races 2.30pm
9th February – Year 5/6 Girls Football
12th -16th February – Half Term
20th February – Year 5/6 Ambassador Training at Broadhembury
29th February – Reception & Year 6 Height and Weight Measurement
1st March – KS1 Coordination Event
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

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. Please keep an eye out for an entry form and permission slip that will be sent home with your child/ren.



Pancake Day - School Lunch



Due to Shrove Tuesday being during half term our school lunch provider will be offering pancakes on Thursday 8th February. The rest of the lunch menu will stay the same we will just be having pancakes for pudding instead! If you would like to order your child a school dinner for this day, please pop in to the school office.

Pancake Races

Pancake races are on the 8th February for a 2.30pm start. Please can we ask parents to provide your child/ren with a frying pan and a pancake. Parents are welcome to attend and then stay for Celebration Assembly and Hot Choc Thursday afterwards. We look forward to seeing you then.

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.


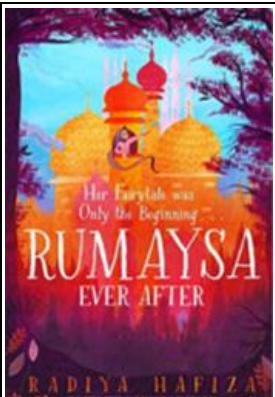
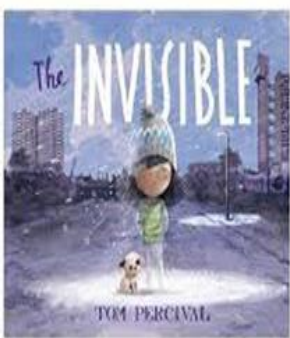
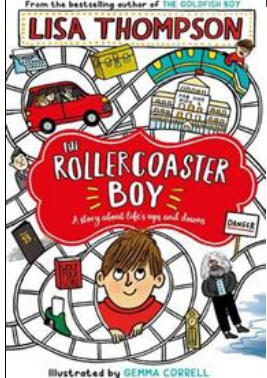
- Thursday 21st March 2024
- Tuesday 21st May 2024
- Wednesday 17th July 2024



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!

Book Recommendations February

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	The Night Flower- Lara Hawthorne		Lower KS2	Rumaysa Ever After by Radiya Hafiza & Rhaida Touny	
KS1	The Invisible by Tom Percival		Upper KS2	Rollercoaster Boy by Lisa Thompson and Gemma Correll	

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.




FAMILY FOCUS

Get Knotting


Knot tying is an important skill for every crew member on board a sailing ship. For the various parts of the sails and rigging different knots are used and the crew have to **trust** that the knots are tied properly and will hold.


We all use knots occasionally to hold something securely in place. See if you can master these knots:

A Clove Hitch knot, to secure a rope to a post.



A Reef knot to join 2 ropes together.






HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Build a Boat

This term's Home School Value has a watery theme. The challenge is to use scrap materials to construct a boat that floats and has a working sail.

Create a draught (eg by blowing or using a lilo pump) to check that the sail really does catch the wind and move the boat across the water.



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.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week (5-11 February 2024).

Across the federation we will all be taking part in mental health activities at various times through the week.

You can get involved at home too.

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity and their theme this year is 'My Voice Matters'.

My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

You can download the resources to use at home here www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/

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).