

Farway Church of England Primary School

Church Green,
Farway, Devon,
EX24 6EQ

Executive Headteacher:- Mrs Katie Gray

(01404) 871239

admin@farway.devon.sch.uk

www.farway.devon.sch.uk



Dear Parents,

In preschool the children continue to be making great progress, enhancing their listening skills through activities to support them with identifying their initial sounds. We support this with activities and picture books from Bug Club. The 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 and within simple words. Within Maths, we continue to enjoy exploring numbers, focussing on using our words to support our understanding and reasoning.

In the EYFS, the children in Nursery and Reception are continuing to embrace the seasonal changes each day, wrapping up now as we start to feel that winter chill. The children have recently been reading *The Oak Tree* by Julia Donaldson and Victoria Sandoy, and decided to go in search of the great oak. The children observed leaves chasing each other along the road whilst branches gently swayed. We took this further and explored acorns, roots, fungi, moss and more. We even gave the tree a great big hug!



In Class 1, our topic within Maths remains Addition and Subtraction. The children have been enjoying challenging themselves to build their own addition and subtraction sentences, using resources in the classroom to support them. They have been considering *stem sentences* to help them continue with strengthening and developing their reasoning skills.

In Literacy, the children in Class 1 are coming towards the end of their topic, *Little People Big Dreams: Rosa Parks*. The children are working towards creating a leaflet about Rosa Parks, using their knowledge of conjunctions, past tense verbs and chronological order to help them. The children are continuing to strengthen their letter formation by writing a few relevant words each week, as well as many children selecting to practise at home too. This is really helping to support their stamina for writing in Literacy as well as across other subjects. A very big well done to all of you!

The children in Class 2 have been developing their art skills this month as part of their project on Line and Shadow. They've looked at the work of Picasso and Rembrandt, specifically their sketching styles and use of line and shadow to create their artworks. As well as pencil, the children have used charcoal, ink and chalk to experiment with shading in different ways. During Wild Wednesday, the children in Class 2 used the iPad to take photos from different angles, playing with perspective and thinking about shadows. They then turned them from colour into black and white, before editing them by cropping and changing settings. At this point, they discovered Miss Algar studied photography in college, so she gave them some top tips in composition and shadow. An unexpected bonus!

The children thoroughly enjoyed Wild Wednesday this month, where they built dens (a favourite activity for all). With friends from Class 1, they were challenged by Sarah-Lucy to build a shelter that withstood rain. Sarah-Lucy then tested them by pouring a bowl of water over the top, while they were inside. Most children stayed dry...! In the afternoon, as part of Collective Worship and the Muddy Church activity, the children collected leaves that had a special feature – maybe they were spiky, or an unusual colour or size. They then stuck the leaf in the centre of a piece of paper and wrote words to describe themselves around it. Some beautiful conversations were heard, where they offered words and observations to each other about what makes each individual special.

Another highlight of the last month was a wonderful day out at Broadhembury, another school in our Federation, to attend a Maths Workshop. The children in Class 2 arrived and met Mr Naish and the children in Class 2 at Broadhembury. After spending some time getting to know each other and discussing how to be a good maths community, the children played together outside. Working with other children their age, the children then investigated with Mrs Marsh or Mr Naish to solve the problems set. This involved asking questions, making predictions and hypotheses and trying out ideas in an orderly manner. Some children recorded their thoughts using images to represent animal legs. Others took turns to find a factor or multiple of a given number, while scrubbing out answers found on a 100 square. The longest chain created was 22 numbers linked by their factors or multiples.

In Science, the children in Class 2 have had great fun collecting in-person data by observing younger children and their abilities, then comparing it to infant data as well as data from their own age group. Check out the google classroom for ways your child can collect data about human growth and change at home. Class 2 are great at asking questions, a key skill in science and a great example of the learning behaviour animal cat (curiosity). As part of one investigation, the children were excited to use their computing skills from earlier in the term by inputting data into a spreadsheet to work out their average reaction time. This is the start of their EXCEL journey and the many ways it can support the children in Science and Maths.

After exploring the text 'Window' by Jeannie Baker, the children in Class 2 are in the midst of writing mode, having planned and rehearsed their narratives over the last week. Full of creativity (Learning Behaviour Animal Unicorn) and linked to their geography learning about changes in the environment, Mrs Marsh can't wait to read their stories. Some children in Class 2 read to an older person each week, arranged by Mrs Tubbs through Silver Readers. The children's Silver Readers are also very excited to hear them next week too!

As mentioned already, in Geography, the children in Class 2 have learned about changes in the environment caused by human food transportation. The children have investigated food miles and the produce offered at big supermarkets and linked this to their DT learning about which foods are available at different times of the year – seasonality. Is it worth the impact on the environment to eat strawberries in December? Mrs Marsh enjoyed the debate where some children had to debate and argue the opposite view to their own – a chance to really think about factual consequences of shopping choices versus emotions and opinions.

Friday is always a day to look forward to at Farway, because that is the day that Ruby the poodle and Daisy her owner visit from Pets as Therapy. The children take it in turns to spend time with her and share a book, enjoying pets and snuggles. Sadly, Daisy has got a new house in Plymouth so will not be able to continue with the visit to school after Christmas. Mrs Tubbs in the process of investigating a replacement so watch this space.

Which leads us on to the highlight of this term coming up – Farway CE Primary School's Christmas Nativity. The children have been learning songs and practicing words over the last week in preparation for Thursday 7th December at 5pm. The children's singing is becoming more angelic as the days pass thanks to Miss Algar and thanks go to Sarah-Lucy, who has sorted the costumes. Mrs Marsh will make sure everything comes together on the night! Class teachers will let you know if there is anything they need you to contribute but Sarah-Lucy has an extensive collection of hand-sewn costumes in all sizes.

If you want to know more about events such as NSPCC Anti-bullying and Children in Need, go and look at our Facebook page where Mrs Tubbs regularly posts photos. If you haven't already, maybe drop us a like and a follow!

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: Who do you admire and why?

Class 2: Are you hiding something?



Orchard Aims



Early Years:

Class 1 :

Emily – For settling in so well

Felix – For his confidence with his sounds and using these to help him read his first book.

Bo – For demonstrating great curiosity and participation in all we do.

Bella – For excellent work and displaying absorption across all areas of her learning.

Leanna – For sitting beautifully and waiting patiently to share her ideas in Collective Worship.

Tom – For great listening and excellent story recall.

Reuben – For participating in Collective Worship and wonderful contributions.

Anna – For excellent work across all her subject and contributing so well in group discussions.

Wren – For persevering and putting great effort into everything she does.

Bertie W – For excellent work in Literacy and checking your own work.

Isabela – For working so well during our 'UK Geography – data collection' activity, gathering and recording information accurately and using resources effectively.

Olivia - For demonstrating perseverance and interdependence throughout her learning.

Robyn - For excellent work with Sarah Lucy, taking her time with her work and her overall willingness and excitement to learn.

Class 2:

Elodie – great learning in the mornings, working with adults and peers – well done!

Betsy – beautiful engagement in art, which she then developed at home.

Oliver Z – incredible skills in art when sketching with charcoal.

Daisy S – engaging well with new knowledge about area in maths – superstar!

George – joining in around school including Collective Worship and Christmas Song Rehearsal.

Tommy – well done for settling quickly into life at Farway.



Attendance Matters



October Attendance

Class 1 – 90%

Class 2 – 85%

Nursery – 94%

Whole School – 89%

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

Key Dates – Autumn Term 2023.

Thursday 7th December - Christmas Play 5pm

Friday 8th December - KS1 Significant Figure Day parents welcome at 2.45pm

Thursday 14th December – Christmas Lunch – Christmas Jumpers Welcome!

Friday 15th December - Christingle Service 2pm at the Church.

Friday 15th December - Last day of term

The Secret Book Quest

The Secret Book Quest is an exciting new reading challenge for children ages 5 and up. Read a total of 50 books to collect all the stickers, decipher the code, and win a special prize. Join Pip, Zena and Libro the cat on a unique reading adventure through 10 themed worlds, beautifully illustrated by Emily Fox. Get a certificate when you reach halfway (25 books) and another when you finish (50 books), along with a finishers prize. To sign up for **FREE**, simply visit your local library and speak to a member of staff. You will receive your very own Secret Book Quest journal and first sticker in your collection. Then browse the library to find your first book, and begin the quest!

Find your local library and/or search our catalogue at devonlibraries.org.uk or visit www.librariesunlited.org.uk/secret-book-quest

Children in Need

During Children in Need Day, the children came together as a school to complete the 'Bear-Pees Challenge'. They were very warm and out of breath by the end of it! Each child brought some coins to donate: some brought lots of coppers, others brought silver and gold. We filled a Pudsey head with coins, raising £27.47. A huge amount from a little school!

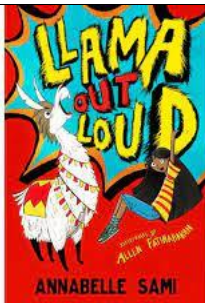
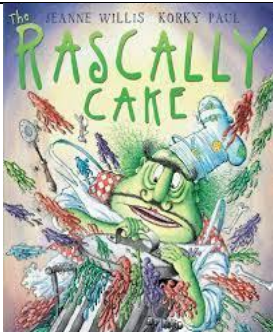


**BBC
CHILDREN
IN NEED**



Book Recommendations December

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	Avocado Asks by Momoko Abe		Lower KS2	Llama Out Loud! by Annabelle Sami and Allen Fatimaharan	
KS1	The Rascally Cake by Jeanne Willis and Korky Paul		Upper KS2	Voyage of the Sparrowhawk by Natasha Farrant	

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.

- Wednesday 6th December 2023
- Tuesday 30th January 2024
- 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!

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 Peace. 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 Peace

In school, children will have been learning about different kinds of **peace** including **peace** that comes when it is quiet, the things that make for **peace** of mind and the qualities of a **peacemaker**. In this issue of Home School Values, we will be focussing on the last of these.

All families have disagreements and arguments from time to time.

- What are the things that cause members of your family to fall out?
- Are there particular times of the day that arguments happen?
- How do each of you feel inside at these times?

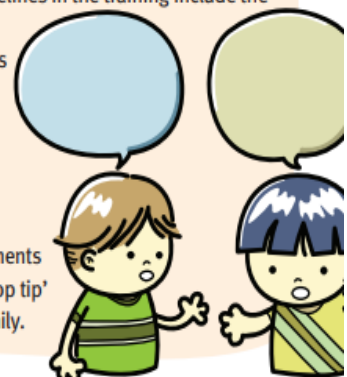


FAMILY FOCUS Becoming Peacemakers

'Peer Mediation' is a scheme often used in schools to train teams of children who volunteer to help settle disputes in the playground. Some of the guidelines in the training include the following strategies:

- Listen carefully to both sides
- No interrupting
- No accusations
- List problems to be sorted out and then work through them

How do you resolve disagreements in your household? List one 'top tip' from every member of the family.



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.



Important Notices

Collection/Drop Off of Children during the School Day

It is a legal requirement that the school knows which children are inside our building at any one time. Therefore, if parents need to collect or drop off their child (ren) outside of the usual drop off and pick up times, we ask them to enter and exit through the school office. This ensures the child (ren) can be signed in and out as per the legal requirement and confirms staff are aware that this has happened. Parents should not collect or drop off their child onto the main playground, even if the children are outside. This is to keep everyone safe. This system is also true if your child arrives at school after the register has been done (9:10am). The main school gate should only be opened by a member of school staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parent Volunteers

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

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).

Gifts & Garlands Thursday 7 December, 3 - 6pm.

Family crafts session

Create a mini wreath to take home.

Enjoy mince pies, cookies and apple juice.



10% discount on gifts and decorations in the exhibition and shop.

Free drop in, donations welcome.

Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Dowell St, Honiton EX14 1LX, thelmahulbert.com

The Elf WHO LOST SANTA CLAUS

Join us this Christmas for a magical, interactive show which will delight the little ones and get you all in to the Christmas Spirit!

Wed 20 Dec - 11am

Meet Santa's elves Sparkles, Bumble and Mistletoe. They have been tasked with arranging an afternoon for a very special group people to meet Santa.

Unfortunately, Mistletoe is just being naughty and not taking his job very seriously, Bumble is getting annoyed with Mistletoe and Sparkles forgot to do something which means Santa may not even make it to meet everyone.

Can you help them to get along and find a way to make sure that Santa arrives in time?

Box Office: 01404 384 050

Ticket includes materials for kids craft activity, a drink and Christmas Cookie for the children. Hot drink and mince pie for adults.

Tickets: Adults £15, U12's £10, Family of 4 £35

Mistletoe

The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LX

Operation Rudolph

We're here for anyone who may find the Christmas Season hard, be it for financial or social reasons. The service we provide is open to anyone who feels they need it, all at no cost.

Here's how we can help...

Community Meal on Christmas Day
Come and celebrate Christmas with us at The CUB at 12:30, transport available if needed. Unable to come and join us? We are also able to bring a cooked meal out to you.

Gifts from Santa
No one should wake up on Christmas Day without a gift from Santa. We have hundreds of amazing donated gifts ready to bring joy.

Christmas Day Meal Box
We can supply a box of ingredients for you to cook yourself at home, supplied and sponsored by Combe Farm Shop & Estate.

This is a community lead project, please visit www.inspiring-connections.org/operation-rudolph where you can register or find out how to volunteer or email info@inspiring-connections.org

Registered CIC 14312970

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS
Growing South West Communities Together

The Rudolph Project

*From all the staff at Farway C of E Primary School,
we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

