

Farway Church of England Primary School

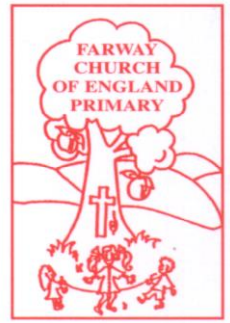
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November Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The Nursery children have been making good progress and enhancing their listening skills through activities to support them with identifying initial sounds. They are supported with this through activities and picture books from Bug Club.

Our Nursery and Reception children are continuing to embrace the seasonal changes each day but particularly on Thimbleweed Thursdays. The children have been exploring the growth of autumn crops such as pumpkins, and different varieties of fungi.

Our Early Years children have been enjoying 'exploring numbers further', comparing them and developing their subitising skills, based off of the White Rose units. The children have also continued to develop their numeral recognition and sorting objects to match.

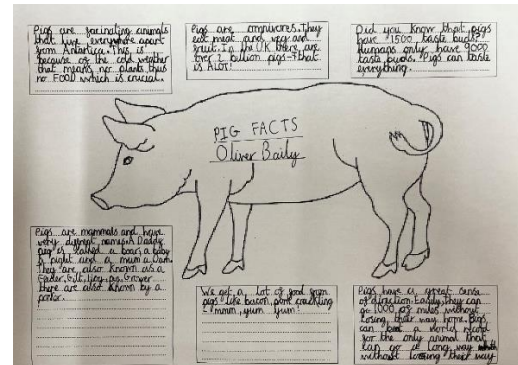
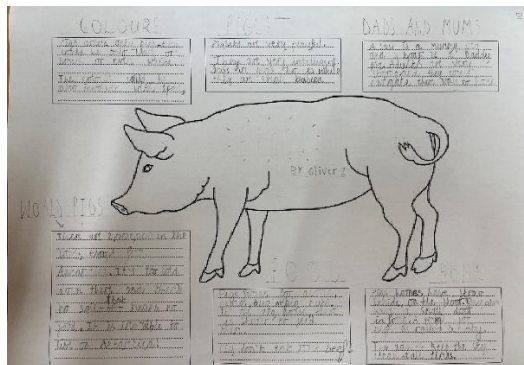
Reception children have been making progress and are more confident with their initial Phase 2 sounds (s,a,t,p,i,n). They have been practising their 'Noticing' learning behaviour and identifying each new sound within the alphabet and within simple words.

In Class 1, the unit within Maths is now Addition and Subtraction. The children have started exploring this with the help of counting bears and numicon, reminding themselves of their number bonds to 10 and to 20. They have been focussing on the use of 'stem sentences' to help them continue with strengthening and developing their reasoning skills.

In Literacy, Class 1 have started their new unit, and have begun reading 'Little People Big Dreams: Rosa Parks'. They will be working towards creating a leaflet about a significant figure of their choice. They are continuing to strengthen their letter formation by writing a few relevant words each week, with 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.

Class 2 had great fun, and boosted their knowledge of farming in Devon, when they visited Farmwise before half term. This is a yearly event where farmers and producers from around Devon come together to share their produce and talk to the children about life as a farmer. The children particularly enjoyed seeing the baby animals, making butter and exploring the innards of a pig! This added to their knowledge of farming in the UK and thought about the range of farming that happens in Devon.

During this half term the children took part in Ready Steady Write and this was based around farming. The children shared the poem 'This Little Piggy Went to Market' then spent the morning adding to their knowledge about pig farming in Devon and other parts of the UK. They created origami pigs (in various colours because pigs are not only pink) and followed a YouTube tutorial to learn how to sketch pigs. Using photocopies of their pig drawings, the children then mixed watercolour paint in different shades to colour them. Mrs Marsh was pleased to see the children using shading skills they had learnt in art lessons, including experimenting with shading using colour as well as pencil. In the afternoon, everyone wrote information texts about pigs. We invite parents to look at our new display the next time you are in school.



In science the children in Class 2 have learnt about mammalian life cycles. They found out that all mammals start as an embryo and have an adolescent stage before reproducing. This has included an investigation comparing gestation length and weight of the animals to find out whether there were any correlations (links between them). They discovered that smaller mammals have short gestation periods and heavier mammals such as elephants have long gestation periods. Ask them to tell you about some of the more unusual mammals they found out about.

After completing their detailed and evocative recounts and poems about the local area, the children have started a new key text in Literacy called 'Window' by Jeannie Baker. What is unusual about this book is that it has no words, yet tells the story of a boy and the view from his bedroom window. The changes (from a view into wilderness when he is a baby into a busy city by his adulthood) are tracked as you turn each page and the children used their eagle eyes to spot patterns and clues to the life of the boy as he grows up. The children will begin writing with an emphasis on their skills of describing, as well as using their geography learning and vocabulary, to write a story about a sustainability issue. A focus in Class 2 is helping the children to discover a love of reading by exploring authors and books recommended from their peers. Mrs Marsh would like to congratulate the children who have enthusiastically maintained their regular reading at home.

In maths, the children in Class 2 are exploring addition and subtraction. They have built their mental strategies, as well as using the formal method of column addition and subtraction. While using this method, the children need to think about whether they need to exchange between the different columns to help them solve the calculation. When they returned from half term, the children in years 3 and 4 began to focus on when they should use their mental strategies such as a number line or adjusting to the nearest multiple of 10 and when they should use the formal written method. Year 5 have moved onto their next topic which is multiplication and division. They have been exploring number patterns by looking at common multiples and common factors. A focus in Class 2 is the children's investigative skills, explaining their reasoning and giving examples. Daisy and Betsy discovered that there are patterns to be found between different multiplication tables and are good at explaining their thinking – ask them to explain it to you.

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: How does the story of The Storm on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 8:23-27 or Luke 8:22-25) teach us about what it's like to be peaceful? Can you recreate your own piece of artwork to show the story of The Storm on the Sea of Galilee? Bring it in to show us, and we can create a display!

Class 2: What if it were always November?



Orchard Aims



Early Years:

Felix - for great team work and excellent work in his phonics and literacy.
Teddy - for settling in so well and joining in brilliantly during phonics.

Class 1 :

Thomas – for working really hard and settling in so well.
Bella – for her excellent questioning in Geography.
Wren – for using her knowledge and understanding to make great connections across the curriculum.
Anna – for excellent work in literacy and independently using her sound mat to help her.
Albert – for being helpful and showing love and respect both at school and at home.
Blake – for managing distractions well and for being confident to ask for help.
A very big well done to all of you!

Class 2:

Oliver B - for being a dedicated photographer, recording our experiences at Farmwise.
George - showing bravery when traveling on the coach.
Oliver B - amazing progress in his writing - well structured, interesting vocabulary and beautifully presented.
Oliver Z - precise observation skills when mixing water colours.
Daisy S - excellent efforts when writing in geography.
Daisy W - for being an owl, noticing the patterns when investigating common multiples and making predictions.



Key Dates – Autumn Term 2023.

Friday 10th November – Remembrance Service
Thursday 16th November – School Photos
Friday 17th November – Children in Need
Friday 17th November – Year 5/6 Sports at HLC
Tuesday 21st November – KS2 Maths Investigation
Wednesday 22nd November- WILD Wednesday
Thursday 23rd November- Flu Vaccinations

Friday 1st December – Year 1/2 Multi Skills at HLC
Thursday 7th December (5pm) – Christmas Play
Friday 15th December (1:15) - Christingle Service
Friday 15th December - Last day of term

Children in Need

On Friday 17th November please can children bring in one pence and two pence coins as we are hoping to create a Pudsey head out of the change that is donated.



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!

Parent Volunteers

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

Water Bottles.

Please remember that children should only be bringing water, not juice, into school to drink, as we are trying to encourage healthy drinking throughout the day. Thank you for your help with this.

Sharing Assembly.

Sharing assembly is now on Thursdays at 3pm. All parents/carers are invited to come and see the children sharing their learning.

Thimbleweed Thursdays.

Please can all Reception and Nursery children come to school **every Thursday** wearing old comfortable clothes, ready to spend the day completely outdoors come rain or shine. They will need wellies (please **do not** arrive at school wearing these) and waterproofs. It would be useful to provide a set of spare clothes should the weather, or a muddy puddle, get the better of us! Children **MUST** bring their own water bottle. Please also make sure all clothes, including spares are named. We appreciate your help with this.

School Uniform.

Please can you ensure that your child has all their uniform named? It really helps at the end of the day to ensure that the correct jumper is returned to the correct child. Thank you for your help.

School Times.

We ask that children are in school by 8.50am each day. Please remember if your child arrives after 9am they will be marked as late.

Sickness.

Please remember if your child experiences sickness or diarrhoea that they need to stay off school for a full 48 hours afterwards. This is recommended guidance to stop the spread of illness. Thank you for your help.

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>.

Medication.

If your child has medication that needs to be administered in school, then you will need to bring it to the school office, so that it can be stored securely. The medication must be in its original box with the prescription label attached, naming the child. You will also need to fill in a special form giving permission for the school to administer the medication. Please ask at the office for more advice. Many thanks.

Child Absence.

If your child is unwell please telephone the school **before 9am** to let us know they will not be attending. This is a legal requirement. As a school we legally have to account for pupil absences, to do this we need written confirmation of any absence. We routinely send home absence forms when children are away from school. **If these forms are not returned your child's absence will be marked as unauthorised.** Spare forms are always available from the school office. Thank you.

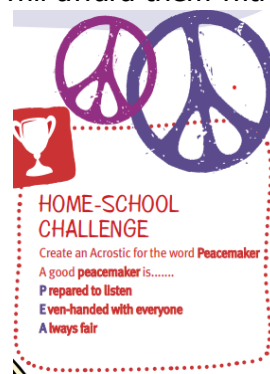
Advice on Covid-19

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).

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.



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.

Normal Magic

Normal Magic is a guide to balancing your mood and looking after your mental health.

On their website are lots of resources and videos to help support your families mental health.

Follow this link to the website... [Normal Magic | A service dedicated to mentally healthy living for all.](https://www.normalmagic.co.uk/)

<https://www.normalmagic.co.uk/>



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

beehive The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LZ