

# Farway Church of England Primary School

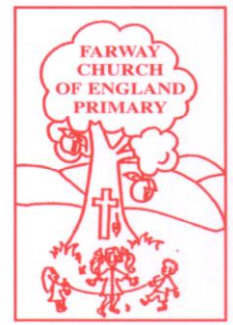
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Dear Parents,

The children in nursery 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. We have been refining our listening skills through various activities, both within 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. We continue to practise our *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 continue to enjoy exploring numbers, focussing on recognising, and building numbers up to 10, drawing on mathematical language (*less*, *more* and *the same*). The children continue to develop their understanding and reasoning, through 'show me' and 'tell me' activities.

The children in EYFS are continuing to embrace the seasonal changes of Spring each day, continuing to spot some of the earlier signs of Spring. They are enjoying the 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, our topic has been Magnificent Monarchs. They have been looking at a wide range of past Monarchs, and exploring this across the curriculum, from History to Art. In class, we have also been looking back at Dawson's Model to help discuss each person further, and justifying why each Monarch is significant.

In Key Stage 1, our topics within Maths are Mass and Volume (Year 1) and Mass, Volume and Temperature (Year 2). Year 1 and 2 children have enjoyed using resources to help them problem solve and overcome new challenges. Across Class One, the children continue to use *stem sentences* to help them strengthen and develop their reasoning skills.



In Literacy, Class 1 have been reading the fiction text, *Tell Me a Dragon*. The children are working towards writing their own short story and they have very much enjoyed the excitement and range of activities that we have been able to explore as a result.

The children continue to strengthen their letter formation by practising a few relevant words each week, as well as many children to 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 completed their persuasive writing, using all their powers of persuasion. The year 3 children wrote to Henry VIII to persuade him to forgive or execute Anne Boleyn. The Year 4 and 5 children chose to write to Mrs Gray about the importance of Forest School and used their new skills to suggest and persuade extending Wild Wednesday to a whole day instead of a morning. The children are now writing creepy stories, full of suspense, using tension techniques to craft their writing.

During maths lessons, children in Class 2 have extended and deepened their understanding of fractions as a number and, for year 5, something with which to multiply and divide. All the children have considered which fractions are equivalent (same size), searching for patterns and links with their multiplication and division knowledge. They even considered improper fractions and mixed numbers and practiced converting between them, always finishing by considering whether they could be simplified further. The children are now linking their fraction knowledge to understand how they link to decimal numbers.

In science, the children in Class 2 have been learning about how the movement of Earth around the sun affects our day length and seasons in the Northern Hemisphere. Unfortunately, they haven't proven their hypothesis by experimenting and observing shadows on the playground as the weather has been mainly cloudy and wet. If they don't manage it this week, check Google classroom for ideas to build a sundial at home and use it to measure the time.

In history, the children are completing their project 'Off with her Head' by writing about the impact of Henry VIII and his heirs on Britain today. They have created slideshows about Tudor times during computing and have acted out scenes as important figures from this historical period.

Building on their learning about mixing tints to use as highlights, shades to use as shadows and tones for curves and lighter colours, the children in Class 2 have created their final art piece. They choose to paint a seascape or country landscape, thinking about proportion and perspective. This artwork took sustained hours, with children developing their piece as the week went on. The children, Mrs Marsh and Mrs Tubbs are very proud of the progress shown and the standard of the finished artwork.

Wild Wednesday this month was based around sticks! In the morning, all the children in the school worked together in teams to design and create a large maze out of sticks. Easy, difficult, round, and square, everyone had a chance to solve each maze. Mrs Steele kindly sent in her stick insects, and everyone had the chance to hold one of these fascinating 20cm creatures. Invertebrates that predominately live in warm humid countries and mimic their habitat, their camouflage helps protect them from predators. Children then made their own from sticks and clay and secreted them around the school field. Hidden on branches, just like in real life, they searched for everyone's creations. Using bamboo and other sticks, some children made bug hotels to hang in the trees. So much fun with a pile of sticks!

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:** Which book would you recommend to a friend and why?

**Class 2:** Are all actions forgivable?

## **Orchard Aims**

### **Class 1 and Nursery:**

- Felix - for his excellent learning in Maths, using 'more' and 'less' language to help him explain his thinking.  
Bo - for an excellent week and engaging and playing so well with his peers.  
Ted - for using his counting skills and vocabulary so well.  
Alanis - for her excellent phonics and recognising so many of her sounds.  
Bella - for her willingness to engage in all learning, and her excellent progress with her writing.  
Leanna - for persevering and engaging well, with a particular love for her reading.  
Laurie - for starting to use his blending skills in phonics.  
Tom - for excellent questioning, expanding his learning and understanding.  
Bertie - for challenging himself in his Literacy and having a go independently.  
Anna - for being an excellent role model, consistently demonstrating great learning behaviours.  
Wren - for drawing on her own knowledge and other resources to help her with her learning, as well as persevering with her writing.  
Bertie - for his perseverance in his learning and making great links between his prior and current learning.  
Olivia - for her incredible learning in Maths, using her knowledge of her two times table to help her with her four times table.  
Mia - for demonstrating excellent engagement and making links across all her subjects.  
Adriana - for demonstrating Noticing and using this skill to make links in her learning.  
Isabela - for excellent effort during Literacy, using her imagination to write beautiful expanded noun phrases.

### **Class 2:**

- George – for impressively expressive reading: well done!  
Tommy – for taking responsibility for home learning and belongings.  
Oliver Z – for a smooth return to Class 2 learning.  
Elodie – excellent focus in maths while learning about fractions  
Oliver B – setting himself targets and working on achieving them (TTRockstar).  
Betsy Marsh – smashing challenges and now being Rock Hero and Number One Fastest in the Federation! (TTRockstar)

### **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.**

- Albert (Y2) - for his demonstrating perseverance and hard work.  
Toby - for demonstrating our value of 'managing distractions' as well as helping and supporting his peers.  
Olivia - for demonstrating kindness and forgiveness.  
Oliver Z – for courage  
Betsy – for kindness  
Oliver B – for compassion  
Daisy S – for humility  
Elodie – for courage



## **February Attendance**

Class 1 – 91%  
 Class 2 – 89%  
 Nursery – 99%  
 Whole School – 92%

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

## **Key Dates –Spring Term 2024**

15<sup>th</sup> April – Return to School  
 16<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5 & 6 Ambassador Training at Broadhembury  
 18<sup>th</sup> April – Reception children height & weight  
 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Year 5 residential payment no. 4 due  
 26<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5 & 6 Quad Kids  
 26<sup>th</sup> April – Lyme Bay Fisheries talk KS1  
 26<sup>th</sup> April – Reception Eye Screening  
 1<sup>st</sup> May – Wild Wednesday  
 10<sup>th</sup> May – Year 3 & 4 Quad Kids  
 18<sup>th</sup> May – PTFA Jumble Sale  
 20<sup>th</sup> May – Year 5 residential payment no. 5 due  
 21<sup>st</sup> May – Mrs Tubbs Coffee Morning 8.30-9.30  
 21<sup>st</sup> May – Phonics workshop 9.15  
 24<sup>th</sup> May – Year 5 Handball  
 27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May – Half Term

## **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 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!

## **Guitar Lessons**



We have the opportunity of having an external guitar teacher in school to teach guitar lessons on a Monday starting in September. Each lesson would be 15 minutes long and is charged at £9.00 per lesson paid every half term in advance. If you are interested and would like some more information or you would like to sign your child up please let the office know.



## New – Online Uniform Ordering

We are pleased to let parents know that you are able to order school uniform and book bags online.

Please log on to the following link and follow the instructions below;

<https://www.brigade.uk.com/parents/school/FA5654PD/>

Instructions

1. Log onto [www.brigade.uk.com](http://www.brigade.uk.com)
2. Click on the parents click to order button
3. Enter your child's school name
4. Select the school from the drop down list provided
5. Follow the online instructions to place your order

Please ensure when purchasing any uniform you follow our school uniform policy which can be found on our website - [http://www.farway.devon.sch.uk/website/school\\_uniform/236013](http://www.farway.devon.sch.uk/website/school_uniform/236013)


## Book Recommendations April

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>	Don't Ask the Dragon by Lemn Sissay & Greg Stobbs		<b>Lower KS2</b>	A Mouse Called Miika by Matt Haig	
<b>KS1</b>	Martha Maps It Out by Leigh Hodgkinson		<b>Upper KS2</b>	My Friend The Octopus by Lindsay Galvin	

## 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.



### READ TOGETHER...

#### The Storm on the Lake

The disciples were just exhausted. All day crowds and crowds of people had been following Jesus, listening as he taught them about God's love and watching as he healed people who were ill. Now the sun was beginning to set over the Sea of Galilee. Seeing how tired his friends were, Jesus said, "Let's get in a boat and go over to the other side of the lake."

They rowed away from the shore while Jesus went to the front of the boat and lay down. The waves lapped gently against the side of the boat, lulling Jesus into a peaceful sleep.

Suddenly the wind began to blow dark clouds across the sky. The waves weren't so gentle anymore. The little boat began to pitch and rock. The men looked anxiously across the lake. But Jesus still lay sleeping in the front of the boat.

The wind blew stronger. Great gusts rocked the boat. Spray from the waves soaked everyone inside. But still Jesus lay sleeping in the front of the boat.

By the time they reached the centre of the lake, the wind had turned into an angry gale that whipped the waves so high that they washed right over the boat. Jesus' friends were terrified. They thought they might drown. But still Jesus slept on.

Finally, one of Jesus' friends went and shook him awake. "Master," he cried, "don't you care if we drown?" Jesus looked around. He listened to the howling wind. He felt the cold, stinging spray of the waves. He saw the fear in the faces of his disciples.

Jesus stood, stretched out his arms to the wind and the waves, and commanded: "Peace! Be still!" At once the wind died down and the waves became completely calm. Turning to them, Jesus asked the disciples: "Why are you so afraid? Do you not trust me?"

## **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.*

Getting a good night's sleep is really important for good mental health.

The [Sleep Charity](https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/information-support/children/relaxation-tips/) has relaxation sleep tips for children.

<https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/information-support/children/relaxation-tips/>

Feeling relaxed is important in the run up to bedtime for both parent and child. If your child is experiencing difficulties sleeping it can make you both feel anxious. Youngsters often pick up on stress levels so try to create a relaxing and calm environment as bedtime approaches.

Here is some advice that may help:

1. Turn off all screens an hour before bedtime, this includes television, laptops, tablets and mobile phones. Screen activities can be mentally stimulating and also may inhibit the production of melatonin, the sleep hormone that helps us to feel drowsy.
2. Set aside time earlier during the day to allow your child to share any worries with you. It can be helpful to share how their day has been and what is planned for the next day. Make sure to give them your full attention.
3. Dim the lights in the hour before bed to create a relaxing environment and aid the production of melatonin.
4. Fine motor skill activities such as craft activities, model making, jigsaws or colouring pictures can aid relaxation.
5. Massage can help some children to unwind.
6. Classical music can be very soothing and makes good relaxing music to play in the background during the bedtime routine.
7. Mindfulness is being increasingly used and there is evidence to suggest that it can be helpful to promote relaxation and sleep. There are a number of apps and products on the market that may be useful.
8. Encourage your child to concentrate on their breathing. Imagine breathing in a beautiful white light and blowing out any worries or troubles each time they exhale. Breathing exercises are also useful for parents to carry out and are a great exercise to enjoy together.
9. Teach your child to progressively relax the muscles in their body. They can begin by tensing their feet to the count of 5 and then letting them relax. Next tense the calf muscles and relax, moving up to the thighs and so on until they have relaxed each part of their body. This is another good activity to try together.
10. End the day on a positive note by sharing 5 great things that have happened during the day.

## **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.

## **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>.



### **Thelma Hulbert Gallery – Easter Activities**

Please join us for some fun art activities this Easter!

Tuesday 2 April, 11-3. Performance Workshop. £5.

Thursday 4 April, 11-12.30 Animation Workshop, £3 and 1-3 Drop-in Animation Workshop, free

Thursday 11 April, 11-1 Egg painting workshop £10 / 1.30-3.30, free drop in egg decorating.

Saturday 13 April, 2-4. Free LGBTQIA+ workshop for young writers.

To book, visit: [workshops and events \(thelmahulbert.com\)](https://www.thelmahulbert.com/workshops-and-events) Free places for 15-25 years.

### **L & F Multisport Easter Camp**

Please make all bookings through [www.lfmultisports.co.uk](http://www.lfmultisports.co.uk)

