

Farway Church of England Primary School

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6th October 2023

Dear Parents,

Our Early Years children have been enjoying their 'getting to know you' and 'matching, sorting and comparing' units, based on the White Rose curriculum. They have also been practising their numeral recognition and sorting objects to match.

Early Years have been making good progress, enhancing their listening skills through activities in order to support them in identifying their initial sounds. This is supported with activities and picture books from Bug Club. Reception have been working hard and are more confident with their initial Phase 2 sounds (s,a,t,p,i,n). They have been practising their 'Noticing' learning animal behaviour and identifying each new sound within the alphabet and within simple words.

Our Early Years' children have been embracing the autumn changes each day but particularly on Thimbleweed Thursdays. The children have helped harvest apples from our tree, and have enjoyed using them to create art work, as well as delicious apple crumbles! There are lots more photos on Facebook.



Class 1 have also been discussing and spotting different animals and how the changes of autumn affect them. Recently, they looked at spiders, made their own giant web, and weaved their way through it. The children have enjoyed searching and spotting for hibernating animals on their daily walks.



In Class 1, the topic within Maths has been Place Value. The Year 1 children have been focussing on numbers within ten - sorting, counting and comparing, using resources to support them. Year 2 have been learning about numbers up to 100, exploring place value and using our knowledge of 2s, 50s and 10s to help us partition, estimate and compare numbers. The children have been using 'stem sentences' to help them continue with strengthening and developing their reasoning skills. Year 1 and 2 really enjoyed their 'Maths Challenge' recently, where they had the opportunity to explore and apply knowledge to a more abstract concept, as well as strengthen their Reasoning and Collaborative learning powers.



In Literacy, Class 1 have been reading, '*Dear Mother Goose*'. They have been building up to independently write a letter to *Mother Goose*. The children have been strengthening their letter formation by writing a few relevant words each morning, which has helped build their stamina for writing in Literacy as well as across other subjects.

Class 2 have been engrossed in learning about British farming, including a National Farmer's Union online lesson about harvest. They know about the different types of farming (pastoral and arable) and looked at the topography of the U.K, while thinking about how that may affect the type of farming found there. They brushed up on their map skills, using grid references to find farms in Devon, then comparing OS maps to contour maps. Contour lines show the map reader how steep the landscape is and allowed the children to make predictions about land use.

From allotments to biomes, in science the Class 2 children have thought about life cycles and food webs. They considered what might happen if one part of the web was eradicated – how many other creatures in the habitat would be affected? Dissecting lilies helped the children to identify the parts of a flower that reproduces through pollen transfer. They also learnt there are different ways for plants to reproduce, such as by runners, bulbs or corms. This is called asexual reproduction. They are now comparing different life cycles and thinking about how the various creatures reproduce and grow up.

In English, Class 2 have finished, 'Where my wellies take me' and are now developing their grammar skills by looking at different verb tenses, fronted adverbials and how to write subordinate clauses. This makes their writing descriptive and informative. They have explored their local area, including the church, and collected ideas for their own recount. As well as the recount, they are beginning to share their opinions about poems from the book and will write poems to go with their recount.

The Class 2 children were very fortunate this week to take part in a reading roundabout, led by a librarian from the School Library Service. She brought 3 big boxes of books for the children to investigate and choose titles that caught their eye. The books were organised into 6 genres including Magic and Mystery, Every Day Life and a Lucky Dip! Watch out for these brand new books coming your way soon!

In Maths, the Class 2 children have become proficient at rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. They can explain what is happening when they round a number up or down. A particular focus area is that the children have been working on their reasoning and explanations – telling someone how and why they did something. The next unit is addition and subtraction – an ideal chance to practise those mental skills is in the car or while waiting for the bath to run. Can your child use number bonds or counting on to calculate simple addition and subtractions?

Well done to everyone in Class 2 for bringing their P.E. kits in each Friday. P.E. is now happening on a Friday afternoon, led by James. He also runs a boxercise class after school on that day. The children are learning about netball skills, ready for the next netball tournament – they are going to be ready!

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

Parking.

Please can parents not park outside the school at drop off and pick up times. We need to keep the area clear for health and safety reasons. Many of our children are small and especially vulnerable at these times. **Parking outside school is by pre-arrangement with Mrs Tubbs only.** Thank you for your help with this.

Question of the month:

Class 1: How do you say 'I love you', without saying the words.

Class 2: What would change in the world if there was no machinery?



Orchard Aims



Early Years:

Alanis - for beginning to settle back into school really well.

Felix - for great team work and excellent work in his phonics and literacy

Class 1 :

Leanna - for excellent work in her phonics and trying really hard with her writing.

Tom - for working really hard and settling in so well.

Reuben - for persevering with his phonics and literacy, producing great writing.

Wren - for using her knowledge and understanding to make great connections across the curriculum.,

Robyn - for her excellent, creative ideas and writing in literacy.

Albert- for being helpful, and showing love and respect both at school and at home.

A very big well done to all of you!

Class 2:

Elodie – for persevering and not giving up when learning gets hard.

Oliver W – for showing commitment to his home learning.

Betsy– for incredible, imaginative, descriptive writing.

Daisy W – for her firm grasp on multi-clause sentences that are descriptive and make her reader feel something.

George – for joining in with learning, including working calmly with other adults.

Daisy S – for settling quickly into life in Class 2 – welcome and well done!



Key Dates – Autumn Term 2023.

Tuesday 10th October- Class 2 Farmwise Trip to Westpoint.

Wednesday 11th October- Dress in Green for World Mental Health Day

Thursday 12th October – 8.30 -9.30am- Coffee morning with Mrs Tubbs.

Thursday 12th October- Ready, Steady, Write Day.

Tuesday 17th October- Parents' Evening.

Thursday 19th October - Last day of half term.

Friday 20th October- Non-pupil day.

Monday 30th October - First day back for children.

Wednesday 22nd November- WILD Wednesday.

Thursday 23rd November- Flu Vaccinations.

Friday 15th December- Last day of 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.

- Thursday 12th October 2023
- 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!

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 will continue each Friday afternoon at **3.10pm**. All parents/carers are invited to come and see the children sharing their learning.

Thimbleweed Thursdays.

As you know Thimbleweed Thursdays is our new outdoor learning, running **every week**, as part of our standard timetable, for **all Reception and Nursery** pupils. Therefore, we ask that **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. Sunscreen and hats will be needed when the weather turns warmer. 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.

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 Creativity. 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.



HALL OF FAME

Andy Goldsworthy

Many artists are inspired by the natural world to **create** beautiful pieces of art of their own. Andy Goldsworthy uses natural materials that he finds to make sculptures and pictures. These often include brightly-coloured flowers, icicles, leaves, mud, pinecones, snow, stone, twigs and thorns. This creative artist became particularly famous for his rock balancing sculptures. On stony beaches many people make stone towers of their own.

Why don't you try making one next time you visit the coast?



Leaves polished and greased,
pinned to the ground with thorns.



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.

World Mental Health Day - Tuesday 10th October

The theme for 2023, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is 'Mental health is a universal human right'. As a school we will all wear green to show our support and raise awareness.

World Mental Health Day is about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health.

It's also a chance to talk about mental health, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to get help if you are struggling.

Talking about how we feel is one of the "10 a day" for good mental health, which we use in school.



We'd like to take this opportunity to signpost you to this resource from The NHS and Children and Family Health Devon, which we feel could be useful for children in KS2 who need help to learn to self-manage their fears and worries.



Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage provides a fun, safe and engaging way for children and young people to tackle their worries head on so they can build resilience, gain confidence and thrive.

Follow the link below to gain access:

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/lumi-nova/>

Please note: We will dress in green on the following day- Wednesday 11th October as Class 2 are on a trip on Tuesday 10th October- Thank you.

Sidmouth Science Festival

Sidmouth Science Festival takes place between 6th and 15th October 2023. There are lots of exciting events taking place. Please find out more at <https://www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org/>.

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, Powell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LZ

STEPHEN FRY LAURIE HIGMORE CAREY HAREWOOD
JESSICA SYAL NICHOLAS HART WITH JONES AND STAUNTON

THE CANTERVILLE GHOST

IT'S HIS HOUSE, NOT YOURS

FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER - 2PM

An American family moves in to Canterville Chase, a stately country-side mansion that has been haunted by the ghost Sir Simon De Canterville for 300 years.

Box Office 01404 384 050

Tickets: Adults £7.50, U16's £6.50, Family of 4 ticket - £25

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