

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



3rd March 2017

Dear Parents,

It's been very busy this week with Shrove Tuesday and World Book Day.

There were a lot of pancakes eaten on Tuesday afternoon and some very competitive races; thank you to Mr Smith for organising such a lovely afternoon – cooking the pancakes outside on the fire was a super idea. I'm sure you'll all agree he was a very good pancake chef! Thank you to all who came along and supported us.



On Wednesday the children attended church for the Ash Wednesday service and celebrated the start of Lent with the mark of the cross in ash on their foreheads. It was a lovely service and the children listened carefully and could talk about the symbolism of many aspects of the service.

I'm sorry the futsal was postponed on Wednesday for KS2 but we will let you know when it will be re-scheduled as soon as possible.

There were some fantastic costumes and characters in school yesterday for World Book Day. Thank you for all the effort people put into the day. In class we worked on producing 'a book in a box'. The children have produced displays for their favourite book which you are very welcome to come and view.



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 week

This week two tourists have signed up for a trip to the moon costing £150 million! If you could afford it, would you take the trip? If not, how do you think the money could be spent and how many people could it benefit?

School Funding

I included in the newsletter before half term some information about school funding. I would like to reiterate that this week and give more information about the Government spending plans that are leading to the first school cuts in a generation. School budgets are already under severe pressure in Devon schools and the National Audit Office say that those budgets will shrink in real terms by £3 billion by 2019/20. In a nutshell, the Government are increasing costs whilst at the same time scrapping support for schools. The amount of National Insurance and pension contributions that schools pay is increasing and the introduction of an apprenticeship levy of 0.5% of the wage bill will stretch resources even further. At the same time they are scrapping the Education Services Grant meaning that schools will have to fund additional services for children which are currently being provided by local councils. If that wasn't bad enough news, schools in Devon are also being expected to pay a deficit which has accrued over time in the County Special Educational Needs pot of funding. You can see the breakdown of these cuts by visiting www.schoolcuts.org.uk.

Although our school seems to not be affected by the changes, if you type in the school name of secondary schools your child may go on to attend you will see the potential funding cuts that those schools may suffer by 2019 if the current plans for a national funding formula go ahead. From this website there is an easy button that generates a letter to your MP to express your concerns.

As Headteachers in Devon we have been urged to raise the profile of this issue and ensure that it remains dominant in the media. We are asking all parents to support us in doing so. Education funding is falling rapidly and our children will suffer. Cuts will mean fewer teaching and support staff, less support for children and fewer resources.

We know that the most important investment for raising standards is high quality teaching. In 21 years of working in the teaching profession I have never felt the need to make any kind of political statement. However, I am compelled to do so now for the sake of our children.

Please help us to make a difference by registering your concern; www.schoolcuts.org.uk



Key Term Dates

Mrs Gray will be
23rd March – Parents' Evening
31st March – Easter Service 11am – End of term
18th April – Summer Term begins
26th May – Break for half term
5th June – Back to school
21st July- End of term

Collective Worship Activity

This activity will be the final one thinking about Courage before we begin activities linking to our new 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.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Wonders of Creation

Philosophers in Ancient Greece in the first and second centuries BC talked about the seven wonders of the world. They chose places such as the Egyptian pyramids, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and the Colossus in Rhodes.

Many years later another group of people compiled a list of the seven natural wonders of the world. They chose the Great Barrier Reef (near Australia), the Grand Canyon (in USA), Mount Everest and others.

This month's challenge is for you to decide on the 7 wonders of **creation**. What will you choose? Your list could include a tiny insect, a beautiful flower or a huge sea creature. Think carefully. Either draw the wonders or take photos and write on the back of each why you have chosen them.

Bring your pictures or photos to school and in each class we will talk about the wonders of **creation** and decide which are really amazing!



Parent Governor Vacancy

One of our Parent Governors, Clara Rose, has taken the decision to resign from her position on the federation's governing body. We would like to thank her for her dedicated service and all that she has done for our schools during her time as governor. However, this means that there is now a vacancy for a dedicated parent on our governing body. The role can be demanding, but is also very rewarding. If you think that you may have the qualities, skills and time necessary to take on this role, please get in touch with Mrs Gray in the first instance. She can provide you with more information about what the role entails. We will start the formal process of selecting a new governor in the next couple of weeks – further details will be given soon.

Please order meals for _____

The menu is on the school website www.farway.devon.sch.uk - Please look at week 3.

	Menu Choices for Week Beginning 6 th March 2017	Cost £2.50 per meal
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
	Amount Enclosed	£
	Please make cheques payable to Devon County Council	

In accordance with our policy, if you pay for your child's meals then payments for school meals should be made on the Monday before the meals are taken.