

Farway Church of England Primary School

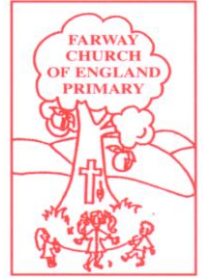
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14th January 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school, it is lovely to see the children again. We hope you all had a restful Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year. At the end of last term, we were pleased to welcome so many parents back into the playground to share our Christmas carols. We really appreciate that you were able to join us for this special moment, and we look forward to sharing many more of these occasions with you all.

Over the last couple of weeks, the children in Class 1 have thoroughly enjoyed getting started with their learning for our new topic '*Street Detectives*'. They began by entering the world of Katie Morag and learning about her life on the Isle of Struay. Having listened to some of the stories about the adventures of feisty Katie Morag, as well as taking a virtual tour of Struay with the infamous redhead herself, the children attempted to make maps of Struay; plotting the destinations that she visited and using keys to identify different locations on the island. The children are looking forward to using their developing skills to learn more about our local community, looking at old and new houses in Farway and Honiton, as well as finding out how our village and local town have changed since their mums, dads and grandparents were young. They will also be investigating what is special about our geographical surroundings next week and beyond.

In our 'Daily Dashboard' sessions, Class 1 have been thinking about 'what has happened on this day throughout history'. During these first weeks back, the children have been surprised to learn more about epiphany, as well as taking a deep dive into resolutions and the traditions surrounding New Year around the world. Class 1 also enjoyed listening to a variety of hits from 'The Beatles' and discovered that 10th January marked the anniversary of George Harrison leaving his bandmates. They were interested to learn more about how the band came to be and were keen to review the best album covers for our British Values display! In other Music news, the children were introduced to our Composer of The Month, Mozart. When examining the man himself, they listened to a variety of his works and were gripped by the story of The Magic Flute. Meanwhile, in our weekly Music lessons the children were very excited to begin learning the recorder. To date they have learnt to hold and play the recorder in the correct position: becoming familiar with the instrument, and making a sound on first beat of the bar on the recorder.

It certainly hasn't been quiet in the outdoor learning space this week. The younger children in Class 1 were excited to find some new resources in the garden in the shape of our 'Making Music Wall'. Our E.Y.F.S. children enjoyed exploring the sounds that they could make using an array of kitchen items and have begun to learn the technical vocabulary for the sounds that they hear and make, including texture, dynamics and tempo!

In Collective Worship, Class 1 have begun to explore our new value: Hope. The children made links to their thinking about New Year's Resolutions when they acknowledged that we all have hopes: we hope the weather will be good, we hope our team will win, we hope our plans will succeed. They were able to discuss how sometimes hopes are high, we hope for the best, and at other times things go wrong, hopes seem to fade, flounder and get dashed. When reflecting on Collective Worship during our '10 a day', mental health time, the children recognised that hope is a key ingredient for our well-being; they noticed that it is important to hope when developing a growth mind-set and a positive mental attitude to learning. Class 1 will now work together to build a sense of hope in each

other: When we look out for each other and aim to build each other up with a kind word or words of praise, we make a positive difference to one another.

The children in Class 2 have started their new topic named '*Revolution*'. This is a history unit based on '*The Victorians*'. Children are developing their historical skills through handling artefacts and using primary and secondary sources, as well as art, to ask questions and learn about Victorian life and the influence of Queen Victoria on her subjects. The children will investigate the many changes in society in the reign of Queen Victoria as well as the important inventions. Class 2 look forward to inviting you in for '*Farway's Great Exhibition*' at the end of term, which will be a chance to share the things they have created and learnt- as long as COVID cases remain low.

In English, Class 2 are studying what we can learn through historical diaries and will be writing their own diary entries in role as a Victorian person. They have discovered that Queen Victoria's diaries are very formal and her language is old-fashioned compared to today. All children have a book from school to read, and a target, focusing on daily reading to build their stamina and fluency. At least twice a week, that daily reading should be on Bug Club, which includes the opportunity to ask questions about what they have read. Children are rewarded with house points for completing this home learning.

Over the first few weeks of term, Class 2 will be learning about the measurement of length, perimeter and area in maths. They have measured our outdoor environmental area to work out the size of each section and will use this learning in their Design and Technology and Geography lessons. You can help your child by practising measuring objects at home, focusing on lengths that are centimetres and metres e.g. 1 metre and 23 centimetres (1.23m) or centimetres and millimetres. Children should also continue to practice their times tables at home through TT Rockstars or practical writing, making sure they know the division facts that go with each multiplication. For example, $3 \times 4 = 12$ therefore $12 \div 3 = 4$.

Finally, our Year 3 girls represented Farway at a gymnastics event this week in Honiton. As always, they were well-behaved and a credit to the school and to yourselves.

It has been lovely this term to welcome our new Head of Learning, Mrs Tubbs. She is quickly getting to know the children and staff and is keen to get to know parents too. She has written this message to you all...

'It has been a really busy first couple of weeks back for all of us! I have really enjoyed getting to know all the children - they, along with all the staff, have made me feel very welcome. We have already been on a trip with the Year 3 and 4 children, and had a donation of some bulbs and gravel from Combe Garden Centre for our Key Stage 1 classes' science learning- thank you to them. A little bit about me- I live in Seaton, my family and I keep bees and myself and my husband have a dog called Luna. I look forward to meeting all of you- so please come and introduce yourself!'

As you know the Covid cases across Devon are beginning to rise. It would be a good idea to test your children regularly if you can. We will do our best to keep open in the normal way but if staff become poorly and we are unable to source supply cover (as you can imagine supply staff are in great demand!) we may need to join classes for sessions or indeed, as a last resort, close a class and move to remote learning. Please be assured that if this becomes necessary it really will be because we have tried every option and feel that we can't open safely. Please keep your eye on the home page of the website for urgent messages about school closure.

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: A chance for an open-ended discussion this week! Tell a grown up about something that you think they might not know!

Class 2:

The Victorian times are known for their many inventions that improved life. What recent inventions have improved the quality of life in British society?



Orchard Aims

Class 1:

Blake - For applying himself to his learning and his subsequent incredible progress across the curriculum. We are so proud of you!



Adriana - For her positive attitude to school. Thank you for bringing your sunny smile to school every day. You are enthusiastic and eager to learn. Well done!

Class 2:

Lily - for putting an incredible amount of effort into her maths learning and believing in herself.

Daisy - for consistently beautiful and thoughtful interactions with the other members of her community. Daisy is the Orchard Aim certificate of the term. Well done Daisy!

Tom - for his thoughtful contributions in all lessons but especially Collective Worship.

Betsy and Lily - for enthusiastically accepting their reading challenge and completing it over a single weekend!



Key Dates – Spring Term 2022

19th January- Forest School (pm)

20th January- Census Day

Friday 21st - Mental Health Ambassadors

24th January – Key Stage 1 Coordination trip, for some of Class 1.

25th January- Key Stage 2 Trip to Tiverton Museum (provisional date)

7th February- Futsal at HCC, Trip for some of Class 2.

8th February- Safer Internet Day.

10th February- Key Stage 1 Trip (provisional date)

16th February – Forest School (pm)

16th March- Forest School (pm)

Important notices

Reception Applications

The deadline for applying for a place in Reception for next September is Saturday 15th January. This should be done online. Please recommend our school to any friends who may be looking. We are happy to give tours to prospective parents. Please ring 01404 871 239 to book.

Census Day

Thursday 20th January 2022 is school census day. On this day our meal provider has offered the alternative of jacket potatoes with cheese and beans. We would like as many children as possible please, to choose a school lunch on this day. The more children who opt for a school lunch on census day, the more money the school is given to spend on the pupils. Therefore, we would ask that you share the menu with your child and encourage them to choose a school dinner for that day. Thank you for your help. **If your child orders a school meal on Thursday they can come to school in non-uniform!**

Covid- 19

As you are aware, Covid-19 is once again a quickly evolving situation. At school, we have our windows open to maintain ventilation so please make sure the children are well wrapped up with extra **warm layers** underneath and a **warm coat**, which is essential now that it is winter. Hats and Gloves are also necessary on cold days, but please make sure these are named.

Please can you also make sure that you **keep 2 metres apart** at drop off and collection time. This is important for all our safety to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Adults and teenagers should **wear masks** outside the school gate. **Thank you for your help with this.**

Uniform

Let us start the New Year with a new resolution to look smart each and every day! Below is a list of the correct uniform that the children should all be wearing to school. We appreciate your help with this.

For the Boys

Sweatshirt with logo	Red
Trousers (Long or Short)	Mid Grey
Polo shirt with logo	White
Socks	Mid Grey / Blue / White / Black
Footwear	Sensible Black shoes. No trainers or boots.

For the Girls

Sweatshirt with logo or Cardigan	Red
Skirt or Trousers	Mid Grey
Polo shirt with logo	White
Socks / Tights	Red or Grey
Summer dress - striped/checked	Red/white
Footwear	Sensible Black or Dark Blue shoes. No trainers, boots, shoes with open toes or heels

PE/Games Kit - Girls and Boys

Plain quarter sleeve t-shirt	Red with School Logo
Track suit top (warm)	Red
Track suit bottom (warm)	Black/Navy
Socks	White
Plain shorts/jogging bottoms	Black or Navy Blue
Plimsolls	Black

Child Absence

If your child is unwell please telephone the school before 9am to let us know that 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. We appreciate your help with this.

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.

After the Christmas break it has been lovely to see the children return to school. However, for some children, returning to school can be a worrying time, full of uncertainty and anxiety. As a parent, you always want to do the best to reassure your child and to ease their worries. Dr Barnardo's have developed some coping strategies to support children if this is a difficult time.

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/support-hub/back-school-strategies-coping-feelings>


[Back to school: Strategies for coping with feelings | Barnardo's](#)



Grounding techniques. A grounding technique is a coping strategy for managing intense feelings and emotions. These techniques help to 'ground' us, which means they help us to notice the present moment we are in. www.barnardos.org.uk

Collective Worship Activity

This term we will be focussing in school on the value of Hope. 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...

God's Special Promise

The world that God had made was a beautiful, colourful place – brimming with life and bursting with good things. It was his precious gift given with all his love. God **hoped** that people would care for it and care for each other but now they were doing just the opposite! They were quarrelling, fighting, and spoiling everything. God saw that there was only one thing to do; to begin all over again.

But God also saw that not everyone on the earth was wicked. There was one man and his family trying to do their best to look after the world and to look after each other and to listen to him. The man's name was Noah. God told Noah to build an ark – a huge, magnificent boat. Noah was mystified because he lived miles from the ocean and was not sure why he would ever need a boat. As word got around about the enormous boat Noah's neighbours made his life miserable with their taunts and jibes. Sometimes Noah was tempted to lose **hope**, but he knew from experience that he could trust God for the future, so he and his family kept on building.

When the work was finally finished God told Noah to gather two of every kind of creature as well as all his family together and set up home in the ark. It took a long time but Noah had to just keep on trusting God. And then the first raindrops began to fall, followed by showers, then torrents and finally floods. On and on it rained for forty days and forty nights. When Noah was beginning to lose **hope** of ever seeing the sun again, the rain suddenly stopped. Noah sent out a dove and when it did not return he knew that the bird had found dry land on which to build a nest. They were safe at last!

And then a wonderful thing happened. God sent a rainbow - a beautiful, colourful bow in the sky. It was a sign of **hope** and promise. The world had been washed clean, and was all ready for a new beginning.

Bible story based on Genesis 6:1-9:32