

Farway Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Despite heavy rain and rather strong winds over the recent weeks, our Early Years children have been thoroughly enjoying their fantastic 'Thimbleweed Thursday' sessions. These have included lots of wet and splashy walks, hunting for muddy puddles in the local lanes and observing the animals in the fields. There have also been opportunities for hunts around the playground and garden to collect natural treasures which they used to decorate wands and crowns. Using their development of the Learning Behaviour Animals including being bees (collaboration), rabbits (empathy and listening) and tortoise (perseverance), the children had great fun working together to make a mud slide within the grounds too! This involved them recognising that to ensure success they would need to communicate clearly and kindly to one another, take turns and organise a fair queue. Outdoor Mathematics on these days has been a great success with teaching staff observing lots of super maths talk. One of the children's favourite activities was collecting sticks of different lengths to make beautiful owls which they have used to decorate their display. Even better, the children then used their left-overs to work with clay whilst creating model hedgehogs to take home! They have also enjoyed scooping sawdust to fill pots of various sizes as they investigated capacity.



More recently, Early Years activities have been linked to themes, including their favourite stories. Having listened to the story 'Stick Man' in their wigwam, the children had the opportunity to act out Stick Man's journey as described in the book within the school grounds. Following this, the children went on a 'stick hunt' to find appropriate sticks and leaves to use in order to make their own 'stick family', decorating these as they wanted and using them to tell their own stories. Another favourite was the story of 'The Snail and the Whale', which inspired the children to make their own snails out of clay and pine cones, as well as experimenting with building nests for 'pet rock snails'.



In Class 1, the unit within Maths has been addition and subtraction. The children have been focussing on adding groups of objects together and correcting mathematical sentences. They continue to use their mathematical reasoning to discuss ideas, helping to develop their mathematical oracy.

In Literacy, Class 1 have been reading *Meerkat Mail*. Building up to independently present their research about animals of their choice, in the style of a Top Trump. They have been choosing verbs to write sentences about animals and their habits, using their current knowledge and group research. They continue to strengthen their letter formation by writing a few letters/words each morning and afternoon, and this is helping to build their stamina for writing in Literacy.

On Thursday 24th November, the whole school had a 'Ready, Steady, Write day', based on the poem 'Georgie Porgie Pudding and Pie'. Year 1 and 2 really enjoyed sequencing the poem, creating positive Top Trumps about their friend's qualities, and designing their own 'Friendship Stop' signs for the playground bench.



Key Stage 1 and the Early Years also really enjoyed Children in Need, dressing up in spotty clothing and donating £1 each to charity. They also spent time talking about what Children in Need was and who it helped. During Collective Worship, they found out how long Children in Need had been raising money and enjoyed watching Pudsey take part in a Tapathon. The children were very knowledgeable and talked about how it was to raise money for children in the U.K. who are perhaps poorly or don't have enough food. Later in the day, they then enjoyed making their own Pudsey masks and book marks.

In Geography lessons, Class 1 have been looking at the world's oceans, and those that surround us on our local coastline. They have been able to apply their knowledge of keys, using these to help label maps and diagrams so they can read them clearly. The children have been doing very well in rehearsals for The Nativity, singing beautifully and persevering in learning their lines. Well done everyone!

On 29th November, Class 1 from Branscombe C of E Primary School, Farway C of E Primary School, Broadhembury C of E Primary and Woodbury Salterton C of E Primary took part in a P.E. sporting event at Branscombe Village Hall. At the event, the children played lots of fun, team games which meant that they had to practise their skills of communication and teamwork as they were working, with children they hadn't met before. Sometimes they were in competition with each other or themselves. They also, played lots of fun games, which had them running, jumping, hopping, and moving around- sometimes working as a team or alone. They all had a really fun day, there was lots of laughter and high fiving, they were all very tired by the time they got back to school!



The children in Class 2 are expert persuasive writers. Not only did they write convincing reasons for contributing to the war effort, they then used their skills during 'Ready, Steady, Write!' to persuade people to stand up to cyber-bullying. Their class novel has been 'Cloudbusting' by Malorie Blackman, which is a book about bullying and friendship that tells its story through a range of poems. They are now learning about devices that poets use to tell their stories and make the reader feel different emotions.

This term 'Ready Steady Write', was based on anti-bullying and the Class 2 children focused on cyber-bullying. Based on the nursery rhyme 'Georgie Porgie', the children discussed different forms of unwanted attention. They were very knowledgeable about what to do in these situations. They had learned about cyber-bullying and image sharing during P.S.H.E. and how to support a bullied person online and in real life. They then wrote leaflets to persuade people to stand up against all bullying that they see.

Multiplication and division are the focus of Maths in Class 2 at the moment. Playing games and investigating patterns, all children are building their mental recall of facts. Year 5 and 6 are learning about square numbers, cube numbers and prime numbers. Why not ask your child about what they've noticed so far? There are lots of patterns in making things bigger or smaller.

During P.E., Class 2's focus has been gymnastics and dance. A specialist teacher, called Rhiannon, has been working with the children on their skills. She has taught them to do bridges, handstand and cartwheels in gymnastics – they are feeling very accomplished! In dance, they have learnt two specific steps; a flick, ball, change and a check. This is working towards them taking part in a whole class choreographed dance. Lots of excitement about P.E. at the moment!

Completing their art project, Class 2 have studied an artist called Jacqueline Hurley. She is particularly known for her distinctive art style on the theme of 'Remembrance'. The children experimented with features such as shading using black and white, distinctive silhouettes, layering and collage to create the splashes of colour – the poppies. These were completed just in time for the 11th of November and are displayed with poems they learnt, as well as poems they wrote. You are welcome to come and have a look at these during sharing assembly on Friday.

The theme for Collective Worship this half term has been Wisdom. As well as discussing the places wisdom can come from (including wisdom from their parents) they have also thought deeply about the messages God has given in the bible to advise them throughout their lives.

In R.E., Class 2 have spent this term learning about the ancient religion of Judaism. They have thought about festivals, celebrations and everyday life, and how Jews celebrate their faith and love for family. One aspect of daily Jewish life is the reciting of blessings (prayers) at different times and for different reasons. The children wrote their own as Christians, and here is a selection below.

Blessed are you – Lord our God – who sent his son to give us his light in our hearts. (Oliver Z).

Blessed are you – our Lord who sent his words to give light to our hearts – from our hearts and through our whole body. (Betsy).

Blessed are you – Lord our God – who gave us family to love us and keep us safe. (Sophia).

Blessed are you – Lord our God – who gave us his son Jesus to give us an example of his perfect love. (Daisy).

You may have noticed your child singing songs or practicing words. It's that time of year again. Can you please ensure your child is available to attend the church on Tuesday 13th December 2022? Arrive at the church from 4.45pm, ready to start at 5pm. Class 2 all have important lines and it would be great to see you all there. Please let Mrs Marsh know (as soon as possible) if your child will not be able to attend.

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



Orchard Aims



Class 1:

After returning to school after half term, the Class 1 children have shown excellent absorption in their work, and being respectful friends, while working towards our Learning Animals and Orchard Aims.

Robyn – for her hard work in Literacy and great 'maths talk'.

Blake - for super paint mixing in art.

Albert - for super writing in phonics and attention to detail in art.

Isabela - for always being a kind and hard working class member.

Viktoriia - for being very helpful at tidy up time.

Olivia - for working hard during guided reading.

Reuben - for his very hard work and focus in phonics.

George - for focusing and trying very hard with his work.

Adriana - for her perseverance and focus in science and computing.

Wren - for her fantastic work in phonics and handwriting.

Toby - for working very hard on his handwriting.

Well done to ALL of you!!

Class 2:

Zhenya- for incredible retrieval of learning across the curriculum.

Daisy- for fantastic diary writing in character as an evacuee.

Betsy- for reading 25 novel since September.

Lily- for finding courage to do a handstand.

Oli. W. – for finding courage to do a cartwheel.



Talking about Learning

When your child has had chance to process the day and is calm, maybe at dinner time. Please can you talk to your child about their learning. This could be done by asking what they have learnt? What lessons have you done today? What is the most interesting thing you've learnt? etc. In school we are working on the children being able to talk about their learning, retrieve information they have learnt and explain their thinking. The more practise they have at this the more it will help them. Thank you for your help with this, and they may share with you some of the great things they are doing each day.



Question of the month:

Class 1: Would an elephant make a good pet? Do slugs deserve to eat? If pigs are what wolves eat, is the Big Bad Wolf bad?

Class 2: What is the biggest magnet on Earth?

Key Dates – Autumn Term 2022

Tuesday 6th December- Year 5 and 6 Athletics at Honiton Community College.

Tuesday 13th December at 5pm – Christmas Play in Farway Church.

Wednesday 14th December- School Christmas Lunch.

Friday 16th December- Last Day of term.

Tuesday 3rd January- Non-pupil day.

Wednesday 4th January – Children back to school.

Important notices

School Access

Please note that the school grounds are **strictly off limits outside of school hours, including during the school holidays. Entrance to the school grounds out of school hours is trespassing.** This is very important for Health and Safety reasons.

Christmas Play

Our Christmas Play will now be on Tuesday 13th December at 5pm in Farway Church, please can the children arrive by 4.45pm? *The PTFA would like to invite all parents to join them after the Christmas play back at school for festive refreshments, where a very special guest will be waiting to meet all the children and they will each receive a present.*

School Christmas Meal

Everyone should have received an invitation for our school Christmas meal on Wednesday 14th December. Children are welcome to come to school on this day dressed in a festive jumper. The meal is free for children entitled to free school meals, and for all of those in Reception, Year 1 and 2. Otherwise it will cost £2.50. Please return the form as soon as you are able, so we can register our numbers with our school meal provider. Thank you for your help with this.

Thimbleweed Thursday's

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.

After their normal Phonics session, taught in the classroom to ensure consistency, the remainder of the day is taught outdoors, whether it be Maths, Literacy, Story Time or Collective Worship. Snack will be eaten outdoors too, although we will return briefly to tables indoors for lunch.

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. Additional socks, gloves and hats when the weather turns colder will also be required. 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. Also, as the weather gets colder, please ensure that your child has a warm coat, a hat and gloves, and that all of these are named. 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.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club continues each morning at 8am and costs £2 per session, including a choice of cereal, toast and bagels. Please contact the office if you would like your child to come along. Thank you.

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.

Cool Milk

If you would like your child to have milk each day please register online. Under 5's will be registered if you let the office know that your child. Children who are entitled to Free School Meals can have milk free each day. Please let the office know if you would like this to happen. Thank you for your help.

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. Thank you.

Water Bottles

Please could we remind all parents that all children including nursery children should have a water bottle in school at all times? Please do not send in juice in bottles. Thank you for your help with this.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed as a result of the Covid-19 crisis 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>.

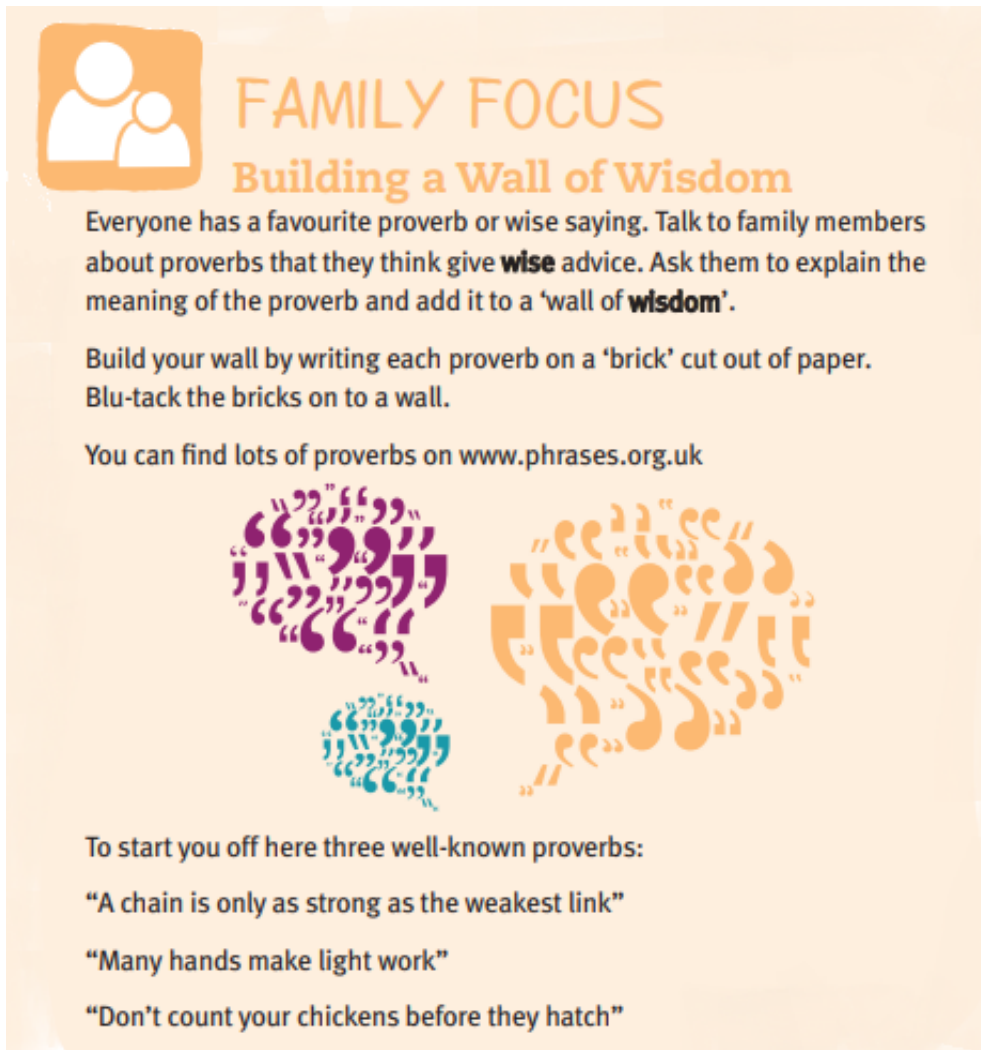
Wellbeing

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.

Supporting children through difficult times can be challenging, ChildLine's website is aimed at children under 12 and provides age appropriate information on topics including bullying, family, friends, feelings, school, abuse and staying safe. It includes games and therapeutic tools for children to play and express how they are feeling. Please follow the website address below to access the information. <https://www.childline.org.uk/kids>

Collective Worship Activity

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



The poster is titled 'FAMILY FOCUS Building a Wall of Wisdom'. It features an icon of a family (two adults and a child) in the top left. The text describes an activity where family members share their favorite proverbs, explain their meaning, and write them on paper 'bricks' to be displayed on a wall. It includes the website www.phrases.org.uk for finding proverbs. At the bottom, three well-known proverbs are listed: 'A chain is only as strong as the weakest link', 'Many hands make light work', and 'Don't count your chickens before they hatch'. The poster also features three decorative circular patterns made of small, colorful letters and symbols.

FAMILY FOCUS
Building a Wall of Wisdom

Everyone has a favourite proverb or wise saying. Talk to family members about proverbs that they think give **wise** advice. Ask them to explain the meaning of the proverb and add it to a 'wall of **wisdom**'.

Build your wall by writing each proverb on a 'brick' cut out of paper. Blu-tack the bricks on to a wall.

You can find lots of proverbs on www.phrases.org.uk

To start you off here three well-known proverbs:

- "A chain is only as strong as the weakest link"
- "Many hands make light work"
- "Don't count your chickens before they hatch"

Farway in December

Thursday 1st December - Farway Championships. Bar open 7pm - film show starts 7.30pm.

Wednesday 7th December - Christmas Bingo. Doors open 6pm - eyes down 7.30pm. Bar open.

Saturday 10th December - Christmas Wreath Making.

With Florist Tara Huffman - all locally sourced foliage supplied. £20 per person (incl. refreshments). Book early as numbers limited. Contact farwayvillagehall@gmail.co.uk or 07901911687.

Saturday 10th December - Musical Evening.

Doors open 7pm - bar open. Featuring Farway Country/Rock Band Grace Harbour and guest duo Red Stitches. This is a free event though donations welcome.

Friday 23rd December - Last Skittles Match Of The Year.

Doors open 7.30pm - bar open. Please bring a plate of food to share.

Saturday 31st December - New Years Eve Party.

7.30pm - late - bar open. Summer Time Theme (fancy dress optional). Tickets £5 or £10 with curry, stew or veg chilli - children free. contact farwayvillagehall@gmail.co.uk or 07901911687.