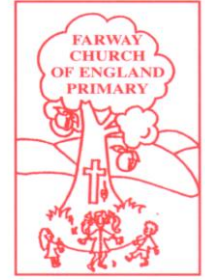


Farway Church of England Primary School



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6th December 2019

Dear Parents,

Since our last newsletter we have had two new families join our school. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Liam and Maryanne in Class Two, Clyde in Class One and Olivia in Nursery. It has been lovely to have some new faces around school and the children have settled in very quickly.

Class 1 started this very busy month with a visit to Axe Valley Wildlife Park. The children had a fabulous time finding out some interesting facts about animals. This inspired their writing of a non-chronological report in Literacy. Mrs Jackson was extremely impressed by how brave all the children were. They volunteered themselves to handle a variety of different animals, including Charlie the Armadillo.



In Maths, the children have been consolidating their understanding of addition and subtraction. For Children in Need all the children enjoyed sorting and counting a box of smarties, then decorating their biscuits to display number bonds to 20.



On the 20th November, Farway relaunched the Jubilee Federation Vision statement, *'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire'*. The children re-explored this vision through; discussion, artwork and writing, by asking themselves who they thought God meant them to be and why. They took part in various creative activities to further explore this idea. They created a Modroc model of themselves, designed a stained glass window for the prayer area in their room classroom and produced a wonderful book of writing called 'Who God meant me to be'. This book will be displayed on the Vision wall beside the library, so please do come and have a look at the children's fabulous ideas.



Recently, Class 1 has begun to explore playing Recorders. All the children have really enjoyed this and have displayed real musical talent. In light of this, Mrs Jackson will be starting a Recorder club on a Friday lunch time, to teach Class 1 the beginner skills of Recorder and how to read music. If you would be happy for your child to take part in this, please let Mrs Jackson know.



It has been a busy month at Farway for Class 2. They have completed their reports on farming in Devon and are now expanding their descriptive repertoire with the help of the picture book 'Window' by Jeannie Baker. In Maths, there has been a push to use Times Table Rockstars to reinforce their learning of multiplication and division facts. A quick and accurate recall of these facts is incredibly useful in other areas of Maths, avoiding the need to work out every calculation. Year Five are now using their facts to work out the area of 2D shapes. Please encourage your children to keep practising to keep skills sharp when they have internet time at home.

This half term's 'Ready, Steady, Write!' was a great success. The children enjoyed learning the famous Devon folk song 'Widcombe Fair', with Uncle Tom Copley and all. After a morning of singing, making music, creating simple puppets and masks and identifying key events in the story; Class 2 then wrote about the events from the perspective of one of the characters in the song (or their wife). The day was complete when the whole school came together to sing the song with the help of their puppets and masks.



During this months' forest school session, the children made a willow sculpture of an Angel, which is currently part of an Angel Art Exhibition which is taking place at Exeter Cathedral this December.



The exhibition will end on 3rd January and we hope as many of you as possible will get to be able to visit to see our angel sculpture. If you're in Exeter during December, please check it out. The willow for this sculpture was kindly donated by Windrush Willow. In return for the willow they have asked for us to hold a collection to support a Guide Dog charity. If you are able to make a small donation we would be very grateful.

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: Can you retell the Christmas Story to your family and think about, 'what is your favorite part of the Christmas Story? Why?

Class 2: How is Christmas celebrated around the world?



Orchard Aims:

Elodie: for making the right choices.

Jessica: for diving deep in her Maths learning.

Daisy: for showing great determination and persistence in her learning.

Oliver B: for his continuous enthusiasm to learn about everything.

Tom: for making links and finding patterns between multiplication facts in Maths.

Issy: for coming up with a variety of adverbials in writing.

Oakley: for always contributing thoughtfully in class discussions.

Lexi: for stepping up and taking extra parts in our school play when someone was absent.

Key Dates

Autumn Term 2019

9th December – Dance event at HLC for KS2.

10th December – KS2 Swimming Lesson.

11th December – Forest school – pm.

12th December – Wreath Making with the PTA- from 2pm.

13th December – Christmas Jumper Day.

18th December – Christmas Play and Christmas Meal.

17th December – KS2 Swimming Lesson.

19th December – PTA Christmas Party.

20th December – Christmas Service 1.15pm & Last Day of school term.

8th January – Children return to school.

Start of the School Day

A polite reminder that children should be dropped off at school **from** 8.40am, so that they have plenty of time to arrive in the classroom and be ready to learn for 9am. It is useful for children to arrive at 8.40am as they are then able to settle and prepare themselves for learning. The register is taken at 9am, if your child arrives after this time they may be marked as late. Staff can only be responsible for children from 8.40am, so we would appreciate it if the children do not arrive before then. For nursery children the day starts at 9am. **If you are running late, and are due to arrive after 9am, please do let the school know.** We order our school meals first thing and need to make sure every child is catered for. We appreciate your help with this.

Sharing Assembly

Each week on a Friday afternoon we are holding a sharing assembly to celebrate the children's learning. Parents are welcome to join us from 3.10pm each week. We look forward to seeing you there.

Parking

A reminder that due to health and safety concerns there should be no parking on the driveway or bus layby outside of school in the morning or evening **unless by prior arrangement with Mrs Gray or Mr Hughes.** Occasionally we will grant special provision to parents with a large number of small children or to parents of children with special needs. We appreciate your help with this.

Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone that attended our Parents evening on 26th November. It was lovely to hear so many positive comments about our learning environment and how happy and settled the children are. If you were unable to attend please speak to your child's teacher at the start or the end of the day or telephone the office to arrange another time. Thank you.

Remembrance

The Farway Children took part in a heartfelt Remembrance Day service at Farway Church, led by Mr Hughes. The children sang songs, read their own special poems and laid wreaths.



Sports events

This month, Class 2 have been very active and sporty! They have been swimming on Tuesday afternoons and have thoroughly enjoyed themselves, learning new skills and gaining confidence in the water. They have also represented the school at Hockey and Athletics events at Honiton Leisure Centre, provided by The Honiton Learning Community. In Hockey, children showed fantastic determination to work together to control the ball. This was a warm up event to provide training for a competition in the Spring term. During the Athletics event, children not only cheered each other on but also showed great sportsmanship by supporting competing schools. All the adults felt very proud of Class 2.



Children in Need

On Friday 15th November the children held a non-uniform day to raise money for the Children in Need charity. They also bought in loose change to fill Pudsey's head. A total of £40.13 was raised for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who donated.



Well done

Well done to Issy who won first prize for her poetry in the Beer Horticultural Society annual show!

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 week 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 difficult, ChildLine's website is aimed at children under 12 which 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>

Christmas Wreath Making

The PTFA have organised an afternoon of fun for the children. Please come along at 3.30pm on Thursday the 12th December to see your children's beautiful creations. Parents will be able to purchase the wreaths for £5.00 each or two for £8.00. Monies raised will go towards the PTFA.

Christmas Party Time!

The PTFA along with Mrs Marsh have organised an exciting Christmas Party for all the children on Thursday the 19th December. It will be within school time so pick up will be as usual. There will be fun games, music and laughter and the PTFA have invited a very special guest. If you would like to catch a glimpse of the man in red, please pop along at about 3pm.

Giant Cuddly Elf

The PTFA will be selling tickets for the chance to win a Giant Cuddly Elf. He will be making an appearance at school next week, so look out for him. Please bring some money if you would like to be in with a chance of winning him. The draw will take place after the Christmas play during the refreshments back at school.

Competition

The Donkey Sanctuary are running a Christmas Card competition. If you would like your child to take part, please go to the Donkey Sanctuary website.

Collective Worship Activity

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

Home-Start Exeter, East & Mid Devon provides a service covering the region from Exeter City to Axminster. Being a parent, whatever your situation, can be very challenging, especially when children are young. Many parents feel exhausted and overwhelmed by the stresses of family life. For some parents it's a particular struggle because they are also coping with other issues. If you have one or more children under the age of 5, are isolated and lack confidence or are going through a difficult time in your life, that's when Home-Start can help. A carefully selected volunteer, who has parenting experience, can visit regularly and offer emotional and practical support. Our volunteers are there to offer emotional and practical support which is based on what we together agree would be helpful. If you are a parent looking for support, please phone us on 01392 826299 or you can learn at <https://homestartemd.org.uk/>

Farway News

Friday Nights in December and January. The Farway Winter Skittles League is in full swing with matches on Friday nights during December and January. The bar opens at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Saturday 7th December.

Christmas Bingo at Farway Village Hall. Doors open 7pm - eyes down 7.30pm. Bingo prizes: Chicken dinner box & chocolates – Raffle. Refreshments: tea, coffee & mince pies. All proceeds to Farway Church and Farway Chapel

Friday 20th December – Christmas Party. The last skittles match in 2019. Please bring a plate of food to share to celebrate the end of another successful year. The bar will open again on 10th January with matches every Friday night until the end of April.

Sunday 22nd December. 11.15am Carol Service at Farway Church.

Tuesday 24th December. 6.15pm Carol singing round the village – start from Church Green. 11pm Midnight Mass at Farway Church.

Tuesday 31st December. Let's bring in the NEW YEAR with Style. Join us for a Roaring 20's New Year's Eve Party at Farway Village Hall from 7.30pm to 1am. Disco – Bar – Buffet. Dress code 1920's Flapper style. Tickets £7 by pre-order only. Call 871646 or email alice-burnell@hotmail.co.uk.