

# Farway Church of England Primary School

Church Green,  
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Executive Headteacher:- Mrs Katie Gray

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4<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Parents

You are all aware of what a difficult week this has been for the whole of the school community. I passionately support small, rural, Church schools which have served their communities so well for over 100 years. Throughout my years working in Devon I have seen the educational value that these small schools give to the pupils, how the children benefit from being in a close, family-like atmosphere, and how their confidence grows through being in a supportive environment. For all these reasons I am personally very upset that the Governing Body of the school is currently having to make such difficult decisions.

However, we must focus on the current situation. The governing body felt that by starting a potential de-federation process it would ensure that the school's vulnerability was shared with you, as parents, and the local community as quickly as possible. This aim has now been achieved. A school closure process has not begun, and the children's educational provision is continuing. I have been told that **if** the governing body vote to de-federate, that process will not be completed until at least the end of January, at which point new leadership and a new temporary governing body will be in place.

If you would like to chat any of this through, please do come and talk to me or give me a call. It's much easier to explain face to face than through formal letters.

Yesterday our local authority adviser, Mr Brad Murray, visited the school. He has observed lessons and spoken to staff and children regularly over the last year and he was very pleased yesterday with the progress the school has made in that time. It was lovely to hear the children's enthusiasm for learning when we were observing a maths lesson yesterday. The pupils' understanding of the skills needed to be an effective learner were evident, they were highlighting the 7Cs of learning without being prompted when summarising the lesson, and talking about how they had worked collaboratively and with craftsmanship.

I also talked to Mr Murray about the changes to the class 1 teaching environment which Miss N has taken on board with such vibrancy.

This week Class 1 have made Chinese Dragon Masks and looked at weddings as part of their study of celebrations. As part of their Dragons theme, they have also made magic potions. They have also welcomed Sid the Elf into class. He moves around the classroom (usually overnight) and the children look forward to coming into school in the mornings to see where he has got to next! And to finish off a busy week they have been practising the Christmas Play with Class 2, and also made parachutes.



Class 2 pupils have been practising for the Christmas Play with Class 1, and beginning to play the ukulele while singing.

Can I please ask that parents do not park directly outside the school when dropping off and collecting their children. This causes an extremely dangerous situation where traffic cannot pass the school safely.

The coach is booked and the tickets purchased for the children to see Aladdin at The Barnfield Theatre on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Don't forget that we won't be back from Exeter until approximately 4.15pm.

Thank you for all your continued support.

God bless and have a lovely weekend.

*Best wishes from Katie Gray and the staff at Farway School*

**Miss N has asked for donations of glass jars with lids for Craft Club on Tuesday. Thank you.**

## Collective Worship Activity

### Maundy Money

The name "Maundy" which we use today comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means 'to love and serve'.



Each year on Maundy Thursday churches across the world remember Jesus' last supper with his friends before he died. At this special meal Jesus wanted to show his disciples how they should lead their lives – by serving the needs of others. In those days it was usually the job of the most lowly servant in the household to wash the feet of visitors who had travelled on foot along the dirty, dusty roads. At the last supper, Jesus himself **humbly** took water and a towel and washed the feet of each one of his friends.

In the Middle Ages, English kings and queens followed Jesus' example and washed the feet of beggars, to show that in God's eyes everyone is equal. They also gave gifts and money to the poor.

Queen Elizabeth II carries on this tradition. On Maundy Thursday each year she visits a different cathedral and distributes money to people who have **humbly** and selflessly served their local communities in practical ways.



### HALL OF FAME

Think of someone in your school community who works behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly. Draw his or her portrait in the frame.

Take it to school to display in the Challenge Gallery.



## Dates for your Diary

Due to all the Christmas events across the federation over the next couple of weeks Mrs Gray and Miss Prince won't be following their usual timetable. If you need to speak to either of them please ask in the office for a message to be given to them.

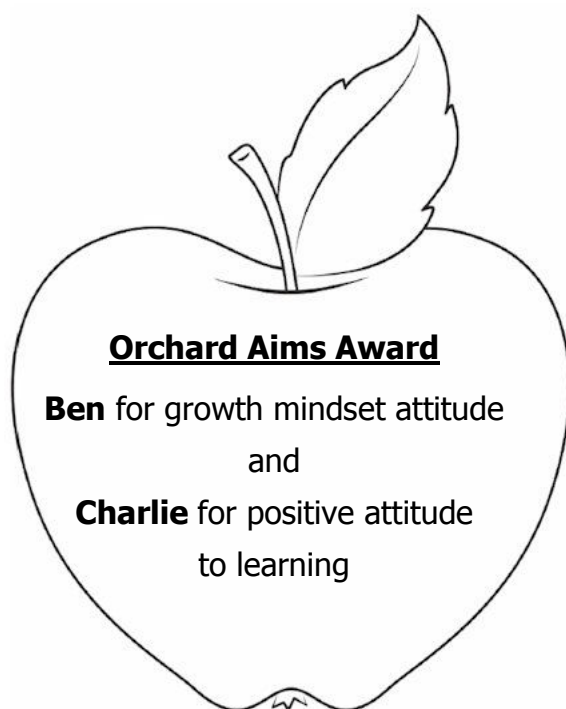
**Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December – Aladdin at Exeter, Barnfield Theatre**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Craft Club**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Farway Christmas Performance 6.00pm**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term**



## **FARWAY EVENTS**

### **Friday 4 and 11 December**

Winter Skittles League matches continue in Farway Village Hall - the bar opens as usual at 7.30pm – you are most welcome to join us.

### **Friday 18 December**

Join us for the last skittles match of 2015 which will be Bailys V Hole in the Ground. **Please note this match is a change to the original schedule.** The bar will be open from 7.30pm and the fire will be burning brightly. Please bring a plate of food to share to get in the Christmas spirit – everyone is welcome to join in the festivities.

The bar will open again on Friday 8 January when skittles matches will resume.

### **Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve)**

As usual, there will be carol singing round the village, weather permitting.

## **NOVEMBER WEATHER IN FARWAY**

Highest temperature	17.2°C on	7 November
Lowest temperature	-2.5°C on	23 November
Highest wind gust	53.7 mph	18 November
Monthly rainfall	3.89 inches	

**Please order meals for the whole week and return this slip with your week's choices on Monday morning.**

Should you wish to change your order, we will be able to make adjustments on the day, so if a child is absent, or just if you change your mind, we'll be able to cancel any meal previously ordered (or add one on!)

**Please notify the office of any changes** as we no longer call the dinner register in class.

**NEXT WEEK'S MENU – Week 3 – Please fill in the order form below and return to school**

MONDAY	Split Jackets with Pancetta, Melted Cheese & Chives
	Split Jackets with Pineapple, Melted Cheese & Chives
	PACKED LUNCH: WHITE SOFT FINGER ROLL With Choice Of: HAM, TUNA MAYO, EGG MAYO or MILD CHEDDAR SIDE: of Mixed Sticks: Carrot, Celery & Cucumber with Humous Dip
	Apple Cake with Custard
TUESDAY	Ham & Tomato Quiche with New Potatoes & Salad
	Mixed Vegetable Quiche with New Potatoes & Salad
	PACKED LUNCH: WRAP with Choice of: MILD, SPICY CHICKEN or SPICY BEANS with LETTUCE SIDE: of GRATED MILD CHEDDAR and CHERRY TOMATO
	Fruit Jelly
WEDNESDAY	Roast Turkey & Stuffing with Seasonal Vegetables and Roast Potatoes
	Bean Loaf with Seasonal Vegetables and Roast Potatoes
	PACKED LUNCH: WHOLEMEAL SOFT FINGER ROLL With Choice Of: BLT (unsmoked) or SLICED EGG (& salad cream) SIDE: of HOMEMADE WALDORF SALAD (without walnuts)
	Yoghurt
THURSDAY	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christmas Lunch</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Can children please bring in a container with a small amount of tinsel and greenery etc. to make table decorations. Thank you</i></p>
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers with Mashed Potato and Baked Beans
	Vegetable Fingers with Mashed Potato and Baked Beans
	PACKED LUNCH: MULTIGRAIN SOFT FINGER ROLL With Choice Of: ROAST PORK & PICKLE or TUNA SALAD SIDE: of COLD VEGETABLE FRIED RICE POT
	Chocolate Mousse

Salad to include: Lettuce, Cucumber, Grated Carrot, Grapes, Cherry Tomatoes, Coleslaw

Drink: 200ml Semi Skimmed Milk is included with each meal

Please order meals for \_\_\_\_\_

	Menu Choices for Week Beginning 7 <sup>th</sup> December, 2015	Cost
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
	Amount Enclosed	£
	– Please make cheques payable to Devon County Council	

**Please ensure this form is returned to school on Monday morning**