

Farway Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents,

It has been a busy couple of weeks for Class 1. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the beginning of our investigations into Chinese New Year as part of our new Literacy Unit. They first studied our new text '*Chinese New Year (Festivals Around the World)*' by Grace Jones, and watched a PowerPoint and video to learn the story of the 12 animals of the zodiac. They found out about how Chinese New Year is celebrated around the world, and discovered a range of learning opportunities exploring this celebration further, whilst practising a range of cross-curricular skills. Some of these tasks have included using multiplication (Key Stage 1) and addition (E.Y.F.S.) to draw and colour a dragon in Maths, as well as using shapes to make dragon pictures. In Literacy, Class 1 read and followed instructions to make a paper lantern and in Music they made and played their own Chinese drums. They wrote Chinese numbers in the sand and painted Chinese symbols for the 12 animals of the zodiac. To develop their fine motor skills, they explored noodles with tweezers in the sensory tub and to develop their hand eye coordination and gross motor control they painted paper lanterns suspended from the ceiling. What a lovely Literacy unit this promises to be!

As part of Class 1's '*Street Detectives*' learning, the children have been lucky enough to welcome some extremely knowledgeable visitors to our classroom over the last couple of weeks who have been able to talk about 'all things Farway!' The children had some really interesting questions to ask both of our visitors, including why they love Farway and what makes it special?

First, David visited to discuss how Farway has changed over the years. From school days in the 1940's, to prominent figures linked to Farway, the war years and evacuees, to employment and delivery rounds, David was able to offer a wealth of historical knowledge that afforded us a glimpse into the past and enabled us to consider how Farway might change in the future. The Class 1 children asked some fantastic questions that enabled them to consider whether or not the changes were good or bad, though they were a little frustrated that their findings proved somewhat inconclusive, since they could agree that there was a good deal of both positive and negative impact on the local area! The best part was that they were able to plot some local landmarks, previously unbeknownst to us, on our maps, for example where there was post office, a pub and a local blacksmith, as well as where a German pilot made craters when he dropped his ammunition!



Next, Steve talked to Class 1 about his job as a thatcher. The children learnt what a thatcher does and how! He was able to describe how thatching has changed over time and the different equipment and resources that a thatcher uses. The children dug out a map to look at Romania and Poland since much of the straw, as well as the hazel for the spars are imported from there. Remembering their learning from our previous topic, the children were quick to find out that thatching on modern buildings is decidedly safer than that on those that they investigated when learning about '*The Great Fire of London*' since they now include a fireproof mat. Given that many of us live in older thatched properties the children thought it was interesting that due to the fact that older buildings are simply repaired and rethatched, these are much the same as they were in 1666 and the straw on the lowest layer will likely be the straw arranged there when the property was first thatched!



Class 1 would like to thank David and Steve for taking their time to come in to talk to the children about all things Farway, we all learnt lots and it has been useful supporting our learning about the geography and history of our valley!

The children in Class 1 have also really enjoyed their Art lessons recently and Miss Harvey-Jones could not be prouder of the work that they have produced. Their current unit began with the children looking at Monet's painting '*The Water Lily Pond*'. They tried to describe this image and then closed their eyes and imagined that they were there; perhaps they were standing on the bridge, or maybe they were fish gliding through the calm waters, they might even be swans paddling through the lily pads. They imagined what they could see around them and tried to describe the picture in their minds by using their other senses. They looked carefully at Monet's painting again and counted how many colours they could see in the painting. They were surprised to learn that Monet only used five colours: cadmium yellow, vermilion (a red), cobalt blue, emerald green, rose madder deep (a pink), and silver-white. He didn't even use black for the darker areas because he thought black had a dulling effect so used colours like dark red and green instead. They looked at how Monet used the paint and thought about his use of brush strokes. They noticed that Monet used many layers in his work; the flowers are thick blobs of paint and the plants are different swirls and lines. Class 1 talked about the fact that even though Monet's flowers don't have the same shape as real flowers, they could still tell what they are because of the setting, the colours, and even the title of the painting. Class 1 described the water, its colours and brushstrokes and learned how Monet was able to show that it was moving by using choppy brushstrokes. The Class 1 children then created their own water lily pond image in the style of Monet, considering how to use their brushes effectively and taking time to mix an endless collection of blues and greens. They were careful to imitate the brush strokes that they had observed and use thick dollops of paint to create texture. When their work was completed Class 1 read the story '*The Magical Garden of Claude Monet*' by Laurence Anholt. They had a super discussion about how the illustrations in the book are similar and different to '*The Water Lily Pond*' and described what would be inside their own magical gardens.

Inspired by the children's fascination of Miss Harvey-Jones' Story Orchestra book '*Mozart's Magic Flute*', during our Daily Dashboard sessions this week, Class 1 have been enjoying further books from this set. Consequently, the children have been learning about Tchaikovsky and thoroughly enjoyed listening to the story of Swan Lake. In light of this, Miss Harvey-Jones showed them some clips of cellists and violinists performing this piece in huge opera houses, as well as ballet dancers dancing to the music and played the score to the pupils as they painted. Some of the pupils then chose to add their own swans to their paintings.

Beyond our Art lessons though, Class 1 have found that the more they look, the more art really is everywhere. On 19th January they learnt about and celebrated the work of Paul Cezanne, born in 1839, whilst on 31st January it was *'Inspire Your Heart with Art Day'*, in light of which the children had the opportunity to pore over a selection of different works. They thought about which ones really spoke to them and made their hearts sing. Class 1 look forward to sharing more news of our art with you soon as we begin our own end of unit masterpieces.

The big event of the month for Class 2, was their trip to Tiverton Museum. They had a busy fun-packed day, full of artefacts, dressing up and learning about Tiverton in the Victorian times. A particular hit with all the children was the opportunity to ride a train called 'The Tivvy Bumper' and pull at the horn. In that room, there were clothes, suitcases and cameras, which led to conversations about holidays in the past and the huge changes in society that train travel started. Another memorable activity for the Class 2 children, was dressing up as Victorian schoolchildren and following the many rules they were given by the teacher. Mrs Marsh was very proud when the Victorian teacher commented on their beautiful cursive handwriting whilst writing on a slate. They learned fascinating facts about the man who built Heathcoat Factory and the type of factory owner he was. His factory made the lace that was used, not only in Queen Victoria's veil, but also in Princess Diana's.

The learning from the trip has fed into Class 2's English diary writing, which they will complete this week. They will be writing as Victorians who live in Tiverton – some in Knightshayes, some in Heathcoat Factory houses and some as poor children on the street. Next week, Class 2 will be moving into story writing, focusing on the middle and end of a story, using *'Fairs Fair'* by Leon Garfield.

In Maths, all the Class 2 children have finished developing and honing their measuring skills, including measuring the perimeter and sometimes the area of rectangles. Year 6 also learnt to work out the area of parallelograms and triangles. This was useful when calculating how much outdoor space we have and thinking about our land use in Geography. This week Year 3 and Year 5 have been developing and extending their multiplication and division skills in maths. They are moving beyond the 'multiplication tables' to use their knowledge to calculate with 2-digit, 3-digit and even 4-digit numbers. Year 6 are working on fractions at the moment, thinking about how to simplify them and recognising equivalent fractions. Luckily Year 6 have a good working knowledge of their multiplication facts, as they need to be able to convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions, as well as change the denominator so they can compare and calculate. Help to keep skills sharp with regular visits to Times Table Rockstars at home. Is your child a Rock Legend or Rock Hero yet? The more they play the more chance they have to improve.

Class 2 have also been looking at materials, their properties and their purposes in Design and Technology and Science, they have also learnt about separating mixtures and solutions. Thank you to those that have shared further learning at home. They have found out that the more salt they used, the bigger the crystal would be, and that only 2 teaspoons will create an adequate crystal. The same experiment with sugar instead of salt didn't work (or hasn't yet). Mrs Marsh wonders if anyone has tried making crystals with sugar at home?

All the children had lots of fun at Forest School this month, where the focus was on birds. As well as their usual well-loved habits of fire-building, hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows, the children built on their previous knowledge of local British birds. They created dens to use as bird hides, then sat quietly and spotted birds. They made fat balls to take home for their garden birds and experimented with building nests out of different materials. Since that afternoon, the Class 2 children have worked on their shading skills while sketching birds and shared on 'Daily Dashboard' the birds that visit their garden. The final date for the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' is 20th February, so the children can go online and record what they have seen – even if it is nothing!

Message from Mrs Tubbs, our Head of Learning.

It has been another busy few weeks at school! I have loved getting to know the children at both schools and it has been great to speak to lots of parents too. A little reminder that school is open from 8.50am and starts at 9am, it is so important that your child arrives on time to ensure that they have a settled start to the day. Any child arriving after 9.10am will be marked as late. Please support us by ensuring your child arrives on time. Thank you also for the many parents who ordered a school dinner on Census Day- this is much appreciated. It has been wonderful to have some trips going out too now that COVID restrictions are easing and I know there are more to look forward to!

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

Three questions to reflect upon this week:

What can you do to help yourself to calm down when you are angry? Now, what can you do to cheer yourself up when you are sad? Finally, what can you do to help yourself when you are worried?

Class 2:

Thinking about our Collective Worship theme, Hope, do you have a story about an act of kindness that changed something for you, or for someone else?



Orchard Aims

Class 1:

Robyn - for always being an enthusiastic learner, persevering even when challenges arise! You deserve this!



Toby - for super progress across the curriculum, you have made a fantastic effort in all of our lessons and we are so proud of you for making the most of the learning opportunities during your busy learning time. Well done!

Isabela - for outstanding achievements in phonics and literacy. You have thoroughly impressed staff, though it is no surprise since you are always so eager to learn and participate! Well done!

Class 2:

Tom - for showing kindness and care to younger children.

Noah - for achieving his targets and being ready to set more!

Eleanor - for settling in beautifully to Class 2.

Brooke - for making good choices in her learning behaviours.

Lucas - for achieving his independent writing targets.

Sophia - for her continued home learning about Space.



Key Dates – Spring Term 2022

7th February- Futsal at HCC, Trip for Year 5 and 6.

8th February- Safer Internet Day.

10th February- Key Stage 1 Trip.

16th February – Forest School (pm).

21st February- 25th February- Half Term.

1st March- Pancake Day.

3rd March - World Book Day.

16th March- Forest School (pm).

Important notices

World Book Day

This year World Book day is on Thursday 3rd March. We will be celebrating in Class 1 by dressing up as dragons, a theme which is inspired by this half term's class text 'Festival's around the World: Chinese New Year' and in Reception 'Custard the Dragon', 'Tell me a Dragon' and 'The Dragon Machine'. In Class 2 we will be thinking more about classic literature and in particular, some of the popular and enduring stories of Charles Dickens, such as '*Oliver Twist*' or '*A Christmas Carol*'. We would like to invite the children to dress up for the day as a character from any of Dickens' famous stories, which links well with our 'Victorians' topic.

Pancake Day

Looking ahead to March, the school will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday on 1st March with our usual pancake races and we would be grateful if parents would send their children to school on that day equipped with a frying pan and a pancake for the races. Thank you for your help with this.

Cold Weather

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. **Thank you for your help.**

Child Absence

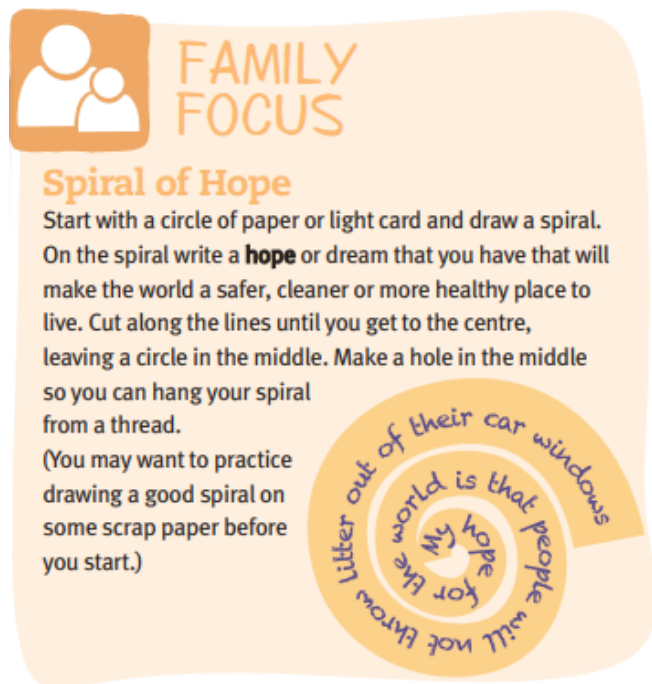
If your child is unwell please telephone the school before 9am to let us know that they will not be attending. This is a legal requirement. As a school we legally have to account for pupil absences, to do this we need written confirmation of any absence. We routinely send home absence forms when children 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.

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 8th February.

The theme of this year's event is to #PlayYourPart in creating a better internet and the children will be exploring respect and safe relationships online.

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.



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.

Today in school the children have dressed up as Rockstars to raise money for the NSPCC. As you know the NSPCC works to protect children today and prevents abuse tomorrow, to transform society for every childhood. Along with all the essential work they do protecting children from abuse and harm they also use their website to inform parents about how to support their children when they are anxious. Please follow the link below for further advice. Thank you for all of your generous donations.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>



How to Help Children Suffering From Depression & Anxiety / NSPCC

Whether you're working from home for the first time or supporting children with anxiety due to COVID, we've got tips and advice for you. Knowing how to talk to your child about their mental health, or recognising the signs that they might be struggling, can be really hard. Signs of depression or ...

www.nspcc.org.uk



HONITON RUGBY CLUB



Training Friday nights - Land Rover Experience
5.30 - 6.30pm

GAMES - SUNDAY MORNINGS

Call Rory Biggins -07841753267
Email - rory.biggins@hotmail.com

*Year 2 & 3
Girls and Boys
Welcome*



CORE VALUES

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP

