



Dolphin Class - Downside

The children in Dolphins had a great day at Downside School on Tuesday learning all about Christmas in Spain. The first session was all about customs in Spain and during the second session the class all made Christmas cards. After a fabulous lunch, a tour of the Abbey and a sports session, the final session was a quiz to see how much the children had remembered from the morning, before a final drink and cake. We would like to say a big thank you to all the staff at Downside for making us feel so welcome, the pupils from Downside who supported our children with a special thanks to Amy Cormack who arranged the day and Belen Iglesias, who taught our children many new Spanish words and customs. We are hoping we might get to return there again later in the year.



Allotment

We are very excited to be working with Sara from Farrington Green on reimagining our school garden which is adjacent to the car park. Sara started work on the garden with children from Turtle Class and Shark Class this week.



Schools' Benefice Concert

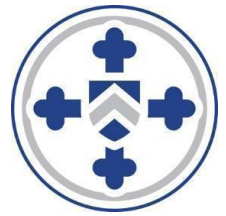
Well done and thank you to all the children from Singing Club who sang so beautifully and enthusiastically at yesterday evening's Benefice Concert at Holy Trinity Church in Paulton along

with children from High Littleton and Paulton Junior Schools. An extra well done to our readers Charlie, Bea, Tilly and Tabby who delivered the reading clearly and with meaning.

Christmas Art Day

A reminder that it is our Christmas Art Day on Monday next week. Due to the amount of glitter/glue/paint that is bound to appear during the day, children can come in wearing their own clothes - bearing in mind they might get a little messy!

Mrs Geeson and Mr Turull



Notices

- **Christmas Art Day** - Please bring your empty cardboard egg boxes/trays as Dolphin Class need these for their creations.
- **Christmas Cards** - the children can bring cards to school to post in the Christmas Post Boxes for their friends & teachers from Monday 9th December. They will be sorted by our school elves and delivered to class in the last week of term.
- **Christingle Service** - We shall send home a pocket money collection candle for donations of loose change towards The Childrens Society. These can be handed back to school or church at the service (see poster). Please return any empty collection candles for reuse next year.
- **Clubs** - All clubs are running as usual, except for Singing Club which will take place at lunchtime on Thursday due to staff training after school. All clubs finish on Friday 6th except Football which continues until the end of term.
- **Correspondence from Alun Williams to Parents & Carers** - please see the link [here](#).
- **Dinners** - Christmas dinner is on Wednesday 18th December - please book as soon as possible or your child can bring a festive packed lunch. The full menu was in last week's newsletter.
- **Flu Immunisations** - are on Wednesday 4th December please remember to consent on-line using the QR code. The school code is WT144281.
- **Jungle Book Theatre Production** - Whole School Theatre Performance on Thursday 5th PM (£5 p/c details to follow on ParentPay Monday). Apologies for the delay in getting this onto ParentPay.
- **Nativity Performances** - The matinee is on Wednesday 11th in the morning and Thursday 12th it is the evening performance. Please remember to book your tickets via ParentPay by Sunday 8th December at midnight. (3 tickets/family: please contact the office if you require more). There will be a professional photo available to purchase and refreshments before it starts.
- **Parents Guide to keeping Kids Healthy** - please see the gov.uk link [here](#).
- **Swimming** - for Dolphin Class is cancelled on the 3rd due to the schools' gala competition being held.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.

Diary Dates

Christmas Dates - December

Mon 2nd	Christmas Arts Day in Classes (not House Groups as previously noted)
Tue 3rd	No swimming lessons - Gala
Wed 4th	Flu Immunisations - parents to sign up
Thurs 5th	Jungle Book Theatre Performance in Village Hall PM
Wed 11th	Morning Performance of Nativity 9:30am
Thur 12th	Evening Performance of Nativity 5pm Christmas Jumper day/£1 Donation to help Save the Children
Fri 13th	Celebration Assembly 9-9:45am
Mon 16th	Carols by Candlelight Village Event 6pm
Wed 18th	Christmas Dinner (Wear your Christmas jumper again - no donation required) Reindeer Dash PM: Farrington Forum Dorothy House Fundraiser (details to follow).
Fri 20th	Christmas Service 9:15-10:15am - St. John's Church all welcome



FOFGS DISCO
Saturday 30th Nov
6:00 pm — 7:30 pm
Farrington Gurney Hall
£3 Per Child

Bar Will Be Open
Tuck Shop
Hot Dogs* Available £2
Glitter Face Art

Card Machine will be available at door for entry & Hot Dogs. Please bring change for Tuck Shop etc.
* Meat & Vegetarian Hot Dogs will be available, if you have any special dietary requirements please email fofgs@hotmail.co.uk

Rules
All children must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times. Children should remain in the hall, no re-entry.

Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Hope everyone who came to the wreath making last Saturday enjoyed themselves. It was a great success and we raised £255 !! A big thank you to Sue Foxwell for providing all the materials and giving up her time to run it ,

We are looking forward to the disco on Saturday, To ensure we leave the hall as we find it, we have the following ground rules;

- Parents/ carers must supervise children at all times. Please do not let children congregate in the foyer.
- Children must not linger in the toilets.
- No-one is permitted to enter the changing rooms.
- Please do not allow children to climb the stacked chairs or play behind the curtain in the window. If you are sitting in these areas, please politely ask children not to do this.
- Children should remain in the hall. They will only be allowed to leave with an adult.

Apologies if these rules feel restrictive but we want to be able to use the hall for such events in future.

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2024
AN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO ENJOY!
CHRISTMAS MARKET AND CRAFT FAIR
TEA/COFFEE - CAKES - RAFFLE - BAR OPEN
HAND MADE GIFTS - DECORATIONS - FUDGE - SWEETS
FARRINGTON GURNEY VILLAGE HALL
12PM-4PM
FREE ENTRY

Community News

THIS WEEKEND!!!

Doors will open at 12pm - come and get a head start on your Christmas shopping by supporting local!

Cam Valley Rotary Club will be doing coffees, teas and cakes, the Village Club bar will be open and we will be holding a raffle in aid of the much needed solar panels for the village hall. Any prize donations would be gratefully received!



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



ST JOHN'S
FARRINGTON
GURNEY

01761 413756
PAULTON-BENEFICE.ORG.UK
REVADAMPITT@GMAIL.COM
ST JOHN'S FARRINGTON GURNEY
ST JOHN'S CHURCH BS39 6UW

IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE

Tea at 3 Advent Service

Food - Music - Message - Making

3pm - Sunday 1st Dec

PAULTON-BENEFICE.ORG.UK



ST JOHN'S
FARRINGTON
GURNEY

01761 413756
PAULTON-BENEFICE.ORG.UK
REVADAMPITT@GMAIL.COM
ST JOHN'S FARRINGTON GURNEY
ST JOHN'S CHURCH BS39 6UW

IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE



Christingle

TUESDAY 24TH DEC
3PM

PAULTON-BENEFICE.ORG.UK





Thought for the Week

***"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."* (Luke 1:38 NIV)**

He just stood there waiting. He had been waiting for this moment for such a long time. He always knew that this moment was going to come, but how do you prepare for something like this? Most of the time, giving messages was easy. You just had to remember what it was you were meant to say and get on with it. But this? This was much bigger. This wasn't just any old message. This was colossal...monumental... life changing.

As he gathered his thoughts, he considered how he should make his entrance. Should he be casual? Or should he arrive more formally? He wanted to make sure that she knew how important this message was. He didn't want to scare her. The last time he'd brought a message, he had really caused a fright. Maybe he should be less "showy" this time. It was going to be a fine balance. He needed to express how special this message was, but without putting the frighteners on anyone!



While he was lost in this train of thought, she arrived. Although it was dark, the reflected light from the moon shone down brilliantly on the well, illuminating the place where she was. It was the middle of the night and she was drawing water; she was obviously disturbed from her sleep. He had imagined that it would be like this. She looked so serene and peaceful; everything was panning out for her as was expected. Now things were going to get tricky.

He was about to move forward, but he stopped himself. This was going to be a difficult message for her. It was going to mean a big upheaval. It was going to mean upset...chaos...rejection. How were people going to take it? What about her family and friends? How about her betrothed? He knew he had to approach her, but he waited just a few seconds longer before he dropped the bombshell. Let her enjoy these last moments of normality.

Sipping the water, she looked around her, clearly seeing the surrounding space as it was bathed in light from above. Then there was another light, coming from behind her. She turned to see what looked like a man approaching her. But this was no ordinary man. He appeared to be shrouded in light and the glare was dazzling.

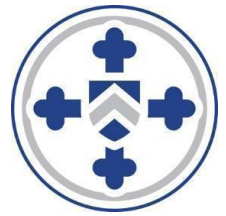
Shocked, Mary jumped to her feet. There was a clatter as her cup fell to the floor. The man, if he was a man, was definitely heading her way. She gently stepped away from the well where she had been sitting and moved slowly back towards the house, all the time facing the approaching light. She was startled, she was troubled and yet she was curious. She should have been terrified by the experience, but she wasn't. She took one more step back and then stood still, a look of wonder and fascination on her face. Who was this person? What were they doing here?

Now it was time. This was the moment. She was ready to hear what he had to say.

"Good evening!" Gabriel greeted her. "You are full of God's beauty, you are highly favoured by God and he is with you."

Mary was confused by these words and wondered why she was being spoken to like this. Although it was shocking, it was also wonderful.

"Mary, you have nothing to fear," Gabriel continued. "God has a surprise for you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus."



He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest.'
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David;
He will rule Jacob's house forever – there will be no end, ever, to his kingdom."

Now Mary was really confused. "But how?" she spoke up. "I've never slept with a man."

He knew that question was coming. He just hoped she'd understand the answer.

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest will hover over you;
Therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God.

And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

Mary was overwhelmed. She couldn't put it all together. A baby...the Son of God...Elizabeth pregnant? It was all too much.

But then she remembered the angel's words. 'Nothing is impossible with God'. She knew this. She knew and believed that he was all knowing and all powerful, but he was also all loving. As she stood there, she felt his presence wash over her and a wonderful sense of peace and power and ecstatic joy. This was that moment of conception. It all made sense now. She had been chosen to bear the messiah, the promised saviour – Jesus, the rescuer.

Mary looked up at the messenger in front of her, beaming with delight.

"Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve.
Let it be with me just as you say."

Gabriel smiled back. He'd done it. She had understood the message and accepted it and God had performed the miracle. The most amazing of miracles.

It was time for him to leave. But how should he go?

Exhilarated, Mary watched as the angel disappeared, the light extinguishing instantly before her like a fire being smothered. She was now surrounded by darkness, but inside her there was nothing but light!

(adapted from *Luke 1: 26-38*)

