



Christmas Craft Day

It was a very festive start to the week on Monday, with all our classes working hard to produce beautiful Christmas crafts. Items made ranged from egg box wreaths to Christmas tree light catchers. The children also made cards for the Christmas Compassion Card Project which will be delivered by the charity to people in need to brighten up their Christmas.

Julian House

On Tuesday we were visited by Gavin from Julian House, a homeless charity based in Bath. He told us a bit about what their charity does and how many people they provide food and shelter for in their hostel, particularly during the coldest months of the year. It was a really thought-provoking experience, and prompted many interesting questions from children across the school. More information about the charity can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.



The Jungle Book - Interactive Christmas Show

On Thursday afternoon, we welcomed the Imagine Theatre Company to school to share their interactive Jungle Book performance. Through a combination of music, drama, sign language and very creative puppetry, they captured our imaginations as we experienced the well known story in a completely different way. A special well done to our young volunteers for their enthusiastic participation!



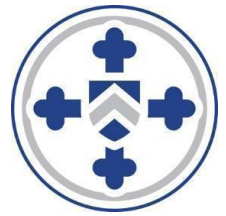
Sporting Events this week

Well done to all the children who took part in our two sporting events this week. Firstly we had the swimming gala on Tuesday, with all five swimmers performing admirably and winning medals - which they will receive in assembly next Friday. The two boys also joined forces with the two Clutton boys to win the freestyle relay; great collaboration and teamwork. We then had the rearranged small schools' football tournament in very wet conditions on Wednesday evening. The team all worked really hard together and after a couple of defeats finished with a hard-fought 1-1 draw. They are looking forward to league fixtures after the Christmas break.

Reminder

Please remember that long hair needs to be tied up for school. As well as the risk of it getting caught in zips, etc, it also helps to minimise the risk of headlice.

Mrs Geeson and Mr Turull



Notices

- **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.
- **Christmas Cards** - the children can bring cards to school to post in the Christmas Post Boxes for their friends and teachers from Monday. They will be sorted by our school elves and delivered to class in the last week of term.
- **Clubs** - All clubs for this term have finished except for Football club which has 2 further weeks. Please see [here](#) the link for the Google form to reserve your spaces for Term 3 & 4's after school clubs.
- **Dinners** - Christmas dinner is on Wednesday 18th December - please book as soon as possible or your child can bring a festive packed lunch.
- **Dolphin Class Parents' Evening** - as emailed out this week, Wednesday 11th December after school for Year 6 and Wednesday 15th January after school for Year 5. Call the office or email dolphin@farrington.mnsp.org.uk to make an appointment or request an alternative date/time.
- **Jungle Book Theatre Production** - Thank you for those who have paid for the performance in school yesterday; for those who have not, please could you via ParentPay (£5 p/c). Thank you.
- **Nativity Performances** - The matinee is on Wednesday 11th at 9am and the evening performance on Thursday 12th at 4.30pm. Thank you to those who have booked their tickets via ParentPay. The deadline for those who have not is Sunday 8th December. (3 tickets/family: please contact the office if you require more). A professional photo has been taken, a small photo is £7.50 and large is £9.50 payable by credit card on the night. You will be able to purchase refreshments before it starts.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.
- **Year 4 & Year 6 Residential Trips 2025** - the 3rd instalment is due by 6th December via ParentPay.

Diary Dates

December

Wed 11th	Morning Performance of Nativity starts at 9:30am (parents arrival at 9am) Year 6 Parents' Evening (3:30pm - 5:30pm)
Thur 12th	Evening Performance of Nativity starts 5pm (arrival at 4.30pm) 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 (required)	Christmas Dinner (Wear your Christmas jumper again if you would like-no donation required)
Fri 20th	Reindeer Dash PM: Farrington Forum Dorothy House Fundraiser (details to follow) Christmas Service 9:15-10:15am - St. John's Church all welcome

Please note that all MNSP Trust schools have an Inset Day on Monday 6th January and so the children return to school on Tuesday 7th January.

Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

A place where all can flourish, find fulfilment and experience life in all its fullness

Newsletter 13 - December 6th 2024



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Thank you to everyone who came to the school disco, hope everyone had fun, and thank you for your ongoing support we raised £197.29 !!

We will be serving refreshments at the carols at candlelight this year, which is on the Monday 16th December, if anyone is able to help this would be greatly appreciated,

We will have mince pies and hot drinks at both nativity performance's so please bring cash or card payments

FARRINGTON GURNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Carols by Candlelight

Monday 16th December
6:00pm @ Farrington Gurney School

The classes and the Singing Club will be performing Christmas carols and songs. participation from attendees is encouraged!
Special Guest performance by Madeline Claire & friends.

Please bring a candle or small light/torch with you to use during the performances.  Please remember to bring your reusable cups! 

The FOFGS will be serving turkey rolls, hot dogs (veggie too!), tea, coffee, hot chocolate & mulled cider

If you have any dietary requirements please contact FOFGS fofgs@hotmail.co.uk



Community News

ST JOHN'S FARRINGTON GURNEY

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REVA@ANPIT@MAIL.COM
ST JOHN'S FARRINGTON GURNEY
ST JOHN'S CHURCH B530 6JW

IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE



Christingle

TUESDAY 24TH DEC
3PM

PAULTON-BENEFICE.ORG.UK



At Julian House, our community is our greatest strength.

Your support this Christmas can help to sustain our services and expand our impact to help individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Heading into 2025 funding for much-needed homelessness services is at risk. With deep cuts to public funding now a very real threat, Julian House relies on community fundraising to keep our doors open.

As we celebrate the festive season, we are inviting our community to consider donating to the Julian House Christmas Appeal. It is only through the continued generosity of our supporters that we can keep our services running and ensure that no one is left behind.

Thank you for all your amazing support.



Please email gavin.osborn@julianhouse.org.uk if you need any help with your fundraising.



Thought for the Week

'...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.' (Luke 2:7 NIV)



She hadn't stopped since daybreak. Well at least that's how it seemed. Anyway, people had been coming and going since before breakfast and for some reason they all "expected" her to wait on them!

It was bad enough having to keep a household during normal conditions, but now it was almost impossible. And all the extra expense. They all seemed to eat so much and there always seemed to be something to clean up or clear away. At least, she told herself, it was only for another day or two. Then they would all be heading back to their own towns and cities.

Hannah slipped, causing water from the jar to spill onto the ground. It wasn't very much, so she continued on her way, making sure that she kept a closer eye on every step she took. As she made her way through the archway, past the animals and into the

courtyard, she narrowly missed being knocked over. She wasn't used to having children around any more and her nieces' boys were always on the move. There wasn't nearly enough space in a busy household for them to be chasing around after each other. And the noise! It was worse than when the donkey needed feeding.

As she bent down to place the jar on the floor, she could hear some shouting coming from one of the rooms. It was her sister again, arguing with her husband. They hadn't stopped since they arrived. If they weren't griping at each other, they were complaining about the conditions of her home. How dare they! If anything, it should have been her complaining about them. Did they realise how inconvenient it was for her to have them staying? And all her children and grandchildren? She had a good mind to march right up to them now and tell them exactly what she thought. Then she reminded herself, it was only a day or two more. What consoled her was knowing that as soon as the census was done, her sister and brother in law would be the first to leave.

Hannah carried the water over to the cooking area, avoiding the boys a second time, and started working on the evening meal. It was only about the tenth hour, but she knew that the boys would be hungry very soon, especially the way they kept darting around. She was certain that she wasn't going to end up cooking two different meals to accommodate the children and the adults, like yesterday.

A little later, when the bread was cooking and the stew was just about ready, Hannah made her way over to the stable area. She made sure that the donkey and cow had enough straw and grass and then put out some fresh corn for the chickens. She checked that the storage area was clean and ready and then went back to finish off the meal.

It was now much later and everyone had eaten. Most of her family were together in the main room, catching up. Her niece had finally got her boys to sleep and the whole house seemed much quieter and much less chaotic. This was Hannah's favourite time of day, when everything had been done and it wouldn't be long before everyone else would be bedding down for the night.

Then she suddenly remembered her nephew. He was supposed to be here by now. The census was tomorrow. What would the Romans do if he couldn't be counted in time? Everything was ready for his arrival, but where was he?

Hannah made sure that all the things were cleaned up and cleared away from the evening meal. She kept back some bread for when Joseph got





here, hoping that he would make it soon. It was already late and she would have liked to have turned in herself.

When everyone else was asleep, Hannah decided to give up waiting. He should be here in the morning. As she laid her mat out on the floor next to her husband, she heard a thumping noise. A banging on the door, loud enough to wake everyone up. She stood up quickly and made her way across the courtyard, keen to get to her visitors before they knocked again.

She pulled the door open. There he was, tired and looking quite dishevelled. Why wouldn't he after travelling for so long? And next to him was Mary; his wife to be. She was resting herself on Joseph, who had his arm around her. She was ashen and she seemed to be mumbling something. Apparently, it was almost time. Time for what? And then Hannah noticed.

Mary was holding her tummy. She seemed to be in immense pain. Joseph looked petrified. He looked up at Hannah. "Have you still got somewhere for us? Mary needs to rest."

What was she to do? Mary was pregnant? Was this Joseph's baby? She didn't ask, although she really wanted to. Then she looked at them again. What else could she do? All the busyness and upset of the day just paled into insignificance as she realised that the young couple needed help.

Gathering herself under Mary's other arm, Joseph and Hannah worked together to support Mary over to the stable. She had got the storage area ready earlier, with two mats and a small chest for their belongings. Now she realised they would need much more. Water, blankets, cloths. What else? It had been so long since she had been involved in a birth.

"Is this all you have?" Joseph looked indignant.

"I'm sorry," Hannah replied. "It's all I have left. You arrived so much later than everyone else. There's no room left anywhere else. I tried to make it ready for you, but I wasn't expecting this!" Hannah gestured towards Mary's swollen belly. Joseph sighed and then looked back at Hannah. He seemed sorry for his outburst and even managed a smile as a thank you.

They sat Mary down on one of the mats. She looked so uncomfortable and now she started crying out in pain. This was no place for a baby to be born, but what could she do? Hannah ran into the house to get provisions. She tried to be as quiet as she could, but by now Mary's cries were getting louder. Hannah feared what her relatives would say if she woke them up. And the questions they would ask; questions she was wanting to ask herself.

She arrived back to see Joseph kneeling by Mary, holding her hand. He looked helpless. Hannah moved over and tried to make Mary as comfortable as possible. However busy and difficult the day had been, it wasn't about to get any easier.



"What about the baby?" Joseph turned to her frantically. "Where are we going to put him when he's born? We can't leave him on the floor!"

Hannah looked about her. What could she use? She didn't own a sling. They couldn't leave him on top of the chest. Mary's cries were getting longer and louder now. Hannah dampened a cloth in the water and passed it to Joseph, who rested it on her forehead. As she turned back, she noticed the cow, bending down to eat out of the manger. That looked about the right size. If she cleaned it out and put in some fresh straw, maybe that would do.

"Joseph?" Hannah turned to him and waited until she had his attention. "What about the manger?"

(adapted from *Luke 2: 1-7*)