



### It's a Baby!

The highlight of our week in school was the wonderful production of 'It's a Baby' by our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Their acting, speaking and singing were fantastic and it was evident to see all the hard work that had been put into making this such a great event. Many thanks to the whole EYFS and Key Stage 1 team who have put in so much time with the children to make this such a success.

### Christmas Jumper Day

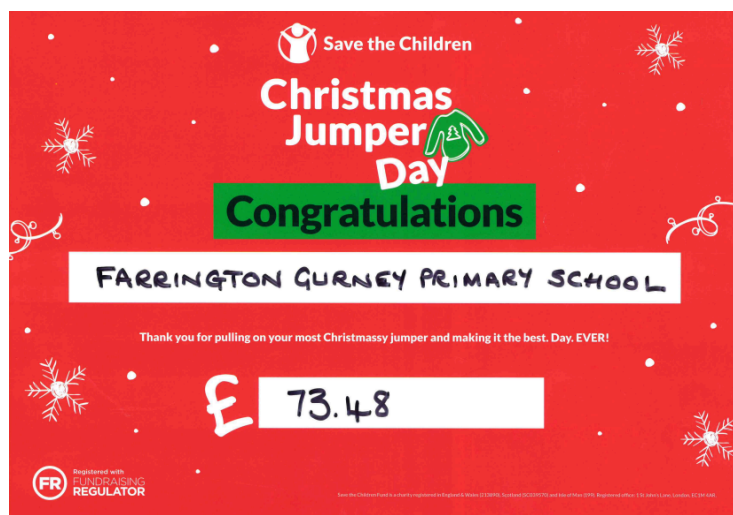
Many thanks to everyone who donated £1 for Save the Children on Thursday this week. It is a charity that works to keep children safe, healthy and learning around the world so we are very pleased to be able to support it. It is always a colourful day and we enjoy seeing the festive outfits. Please remember that children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers on Wednesday again next week for our school Christmas dinner. Thank you also to Farrington's for once again donating a Christmas tree to the school.

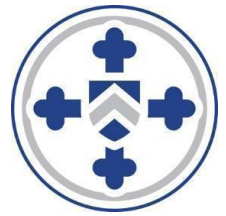


### Next Week

We have one week left in school before the Christmas break, with many things planned. We start on Monday with our Carols by Candlelight, this year with a live singer who lives in the village. Please join us on the playground to join in with some carol singing and enjoy wonderful refreshments from the Friends of Farrington School. On Wednesday we have our school Christmas dinner followed by the Reindeer Run in order to support Dorothy House hospice. Finally, on Friday we start the day with our carol service in St John's Church at 9:15am which we hope you can join us for.

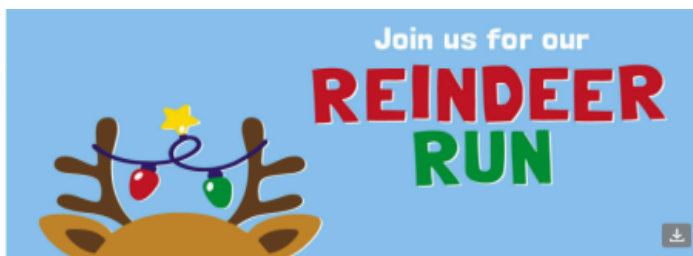
**Mrs Geeson and Mr Turull**





## Notices

- **Admission Application for 2025** - for those with young children starting school in September please remember that the on-line application deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
- **Choir Day and Woodwind & Brass Ensemble Days** - Please see [here](#) a link to the West of England Music and Arts website where children interested in singing or playing can join others from the area on session days. This includes the Choir Day on 3rd & Ensemble Day on 23rd January.
- **Christingle Service** - We have sent home a pocket money collection candle for loose change donations for The Children's Society. These can be handed back to school or church at the service.
- **Clubs** - Football Club has its final session next week. All other clubs have finished for this term. Please see [here](#) the link for the Google form to reserve spaces for Term 3 & 4's clubs deadline is Monday 16th.
- **Dinners** - If you have not booked a Christmas dinner for Wednesday 18th December - please remember to send you child with a festive pack.
- **Dolphin Class Parents' Evening** - for Year 5 is Wednesday 15th January after school. Call the office or email [dolphin@farrington.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:dolphin@farrington.mnsp.org.uk) to make an appointment or request an alternative date/time. If any Year 6 parents missed the evening this week but would still like to see Mr Turull and Mrs Haskins, then please also email the dolphin address and something can either be arranged for next week or straight after the Christmas break.
- **Jungle Book Theatre Production** - Thank you to those who have paid for the performance in school yesterday; there are many who have not, please could you via ParentPay (£5 p/c). Thank you.
- **Music for Schools** - Lessons have finished for this term and commence again on Thursday 9th January (PM).
- **Nativity Performances** - Nativity Photo orders will be delivered & distributed early next week.
- **Reindeer Run** - please see poster and email sent earlier this week. We hope to raise £150.
- **Swimming** - It is Dolphin's last session next week ending with a "fun swim". Seal swim next term: please consent via ParentPay.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.



Farrington Forum have decided to support Dorothy House with their Reindeer Run this year. On **Wednesday 18th December** (after Christmas dinner) we will be hosting a **festive welly reindeer run** on the field full of Christmas magic and festive surprises! We appreciate that it is a busy time of year therefore are asking for **a fixed donation of £2** for children to take part rather than sponsorship. Every child who takes part will receive a small secret gift!  
To take part please donate via the JustGiving link below:



### Helping Dorothy House

Every life is precious. Dorothy House is here to make sure that anyone in our community who is facing a life-limiting illness **can live well, and die well**. We can only do this with the amazing help and support of our beloved community.

# Farrington Gurney Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter 14 - December 13th 2024



## Friends of Farrington Gurney School

We are looking forward to our carols by candlelight on Monday 16th where we will be selling Turkey rolls, hot dogs and veggie hotdogs as well as hot drinks and mulled cider! So please bring cash and cards.

A big thank you to Darren Chivers and OHS for sponsoring this event and covering the cost of the food and drinks for the evening!

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](mailto:fofgs@hotmail.co.uk)



## Community News

**EcoWild**  
You are Nature

### Holiday Adventure Club

Greyfield Wood, High Littleton  
18.02.25 & 19.02.25

A fun-filled Holiday Club for 5-11 year olds run by experienced outdoor practitioners. Expect activities such as den building, nature art & crafts, imaginative play, cooking snacks on the fire, treasure hunts, games & lots of nature connection!

10am - 3pm  
£35 p/child p/day & £25 p/sibling p/day



To book: [www.ecowild.org.uk/book-now](http://www.ecowild.org.uk/book-now) Email us: [hello@ecowild.org.uk](mailto:hello@ecowild.org.uk)

**NEW! JUNIOR CHOIR  
FREE TRIAL SESSION  
Tuesday 14th January**  
Singers of Junior School Age 7-11

**Where:** St Keyna Primary School BS31 2JP

**Time:** 5:45pm - 6:45pm

**What:** Sing all styles of music from rock to pop, classical to folk.  
High quality singing in a fun and relaxed atmosphere

**How:** Sign up below and come and give it a try



**ST JOHN'S FARRINGTON GURNEY**  
01761 413756  
PAULTON-BENEFICE.ORG.UK  
REVADAMPITT@MAIL.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



Book a space: <https://wema.org.uk/wema-music-centres>  
Select Keynsham

Supported and partly funded by  
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND





## Thought for the Week

***'When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."' (Luke 2:15 NIV)***

It was late. He knew that. As he made his way out of the tavern and into the cold night, the wind slapped him in the face, causing him to reel back slightly. He was not expecting that.

Ethan shook himself and realised that he needed to gather himself together if he was going to find his way back. Rebekah would not be pleased. She had said it was ok for him to go out with Cousin Asa as long as he was back before the children were bedding down. He wasn't sure what time it was now, but he knew that the children would have been asleep hours ago.

Ethan suddenly hoped that Rebekah hadn't spoken to Asa as he had made his way back to their lodgings a while ago. He had proclaimed he was worn out from the journey and had left Ethan talking with two friendly chaps called James and Jude. They had got on famously and now, after complaining about the Roman occupation and generally putting the world to rights, they had called it a night. The only problem was, he wasn't sure which direction he needed to go to get back to where he was staying. And it was vital that he kept quiet when he did arrive back. The last thing he wanted to do was to wake up his whole family by stumbling over a loose pot or knocking over a stool.

As he started off, hopefully in the right direction, he was aware of voices. These weren't just people chatting in a corner somewhere, these voices were moving. And they were obviously moving towards him as they were getting louder. The voices belonged to a group of men and they sounded quite agitated.

Ethan became suddenly worried. Was this a gang of rebels out to cause trouble? Was it a garrison of soldiers, hoping to find someone to persecute? Was it some of his family, sent out by Rebekah to find him? He secretly began to hope it was Romans. But then as the men approached, he realised who they were. He could smell them before he could see them. Shepherds! What were they doing here? No one would have invited them to stay in the town. What were they after? The tavern was closing - there was no chance of a drink now.

As they whipped past him, he overheard some of what they were saying.

"He said don't be afraid! With that great light? I don't know about you, but I was petrified."

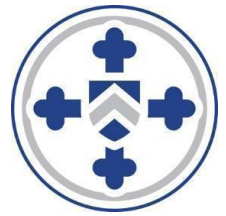
"He mentioned the Messiah, the promised one, the one we have been waiting for."

"But a baby? How can our Saviour be a baby? What can he do to save us?"

Ethan's head turned and followed them as they hurried off down a narrow street. They seemed to know where they were going and they seemed very excited about it. He, on the other hand, didn't have a clue where he was going and he was beginning to panic.

Then a thought occurred to him. He could use these shepherds as an excuse. He would tell Rebekah that he had followed them out of concern for people's welfare. It was his duty, to make sure that they weren't trying to steal from anyone or cause any upset. He gathered his tunic up and





trotted in their direction, hoping to catch them up while at the same time, hoping not to trip over and make a fool of himself.



After what seemed like about half an hour, Ethan had to admit defeat. He didn't know where they had gone. He certainly couldn't hear them or smell them. And now he was more lost than before. All he could think about was the look on Rebekah's face when he did finally arrive home.

Then he could hear the voices again. He recognised them now. This was definitely the same group he had seen earlier. Where had they been all this time?

They now seemed even more exhilarated than before, but this time they were speaking to other people. In fact, as they got closer, Ethan could see that they were talking to anyone and everyone that passed them. What a cheek? A couple of them were even reaching out to stop people who were trying to move away from them. Why were they so keen to talk to them? Ethan tuned into their excited ramblings.

"We've seen him! The Messiah! The Messiah is a baby!"

"It's just as the angel told us! He was wrapped up in cloths and lying in an animal stall."

"I know it sounds incredible, but it's true! I thought the Messiah would be born in a palace, but no. He was born in such an ordinary place."

"The angel told us. He told *us*! We were chosen to see him. Just ordinary men. It's just so good!"

Ethan wasn't sure why they were saying all this, but they seemed genuine and unlike himself, they didn't appear to have been drinking. Is that where they had been all this time? Visiting a baby? A baby who they believed was the promised Messiah? But surely he would have been born in a palace, the son of the king?

It was even later when Ethan finally stumbled across his lodgings. And Rebekah was at the door, waiting to greet him. He knew she would be angry. But no. She looked relieved to see him. As he walked towards her, his head hung low, she reached out to embrace him.

"I was really worried. I thought you had been attacked. I'm just so happy that you're back. That's the last time I let you go off with Cousin Asa." They hugged each other. Ethan was glad to be home, but his head was full of so many thoughts and questions and he wanted to tell Rebekah all about it.

"Asa was back hours ago," Rebekah continued. She sounded indignant now. "He said he left you talking with some men. What if they had turned on you? What then?" She paused and took a breath. "What happened Ethan? Where were you?"

Ethan held her at arm's length and looked her in the eye. "Where do you want me to start?"

