



Merry Christmas

It has been a hugely successful last week of term with so much going on for all of our pupils to enjoy, celebrating Christmas and all that it brings, while also continuing to think of all of those around us. There are many photos below showing what we have all been up to.

We would both like to wish our whole school community a very Merry Christmas and thank you all for your continued support in our shared aim of making Farrington Gurney Primary School a wonderful place for all children to flourish. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Mrs Geeson and Mr Turull



Well done to all the pupils (and staff) who completed the Reindeer Run on Wednesday afternoon this week while full of school Christmas dinner!

We raised £143 which will be sent to Dorothy House - thank you to everyone who raised some money towards this very worthy cause.





Notices

- **Admission Application for 2025** - for those with young children starting school in September please remember that the on-line application deadline is 15th January 2025.
- **Clubs** - Football club starts on the 7th January and all other clubs start week commencing Monday 13th. Please see [here](#) the link to the clubs allocation list for terms 3 & 4. There are still spaces available in some clubs so please contact the office if your child would like to join.
- **Dinners** - Please remember to book school meals for Term 3 by the deadline: Thursday 2nd January.
- **Dolphin Class Parents' Evening** - Year 5 is Wednesday 15th January after school. Call the office or email dolphin@farrington.mnsp.org.uk to make an appointment or request an alternative date/time.
- **Music for Schools** - Commence again on Thursday 9th January (PM).
- **Sendias** - Please click [here](#) for the Sendias newsletter for Children and Young People.
- **Swimming** - It is the turn of Seal class to swim next term on the first Tuesday back.
- **St. John's Church** - Please see [here](#) the link to the weekly church events.

Diary Dates

January

Mon 6th	Inset Day
Tue 7th	Children return to school Seal Class Swimming (remember swimming kit) Football Club starts running for 12 weeks
Thur 9th	Music for School Lessons commence again.
Mon 13th	All other clubs start this week (not Football which starts on the 7th)

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.

Friends of Farrington Gurney School

Thank you to everyone who came on Monday night for the carols, the singing from the classes and Maddie was lovely! We made £324.72. Thank you to Gary Johnson for cooking all the food, and Darren Chivers and OHS for covering the cost of the food. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



MINI MOVIES

**HEY KIDS, DO YOU LOVE MOVIES?
IF SO WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

ITV's hit kids' show, Mini Movies, is returning for series 2 and we're looking for movie-loving kids to take part.

You could star in exciting video clips full of visual effects, pitch your own movie ideas, create amazing animations and show off your costume skills!

If you'd like to get involved, ask your parent or guardian to email...

casting@thechancercollective.com

After that you'll receive further information on how to apply. Be quick though, as spaces are filling up!

CHECK OUT MINI MOVIES SERIES ONE ON **ITVX** TO SEE WHAT KIDS GOT UP TO LAST TIME!



**ST JOHN'S
FARRINGTON
GURNEY**

01753 412750
PAULTON-BENEFICE.ORG.UK
REVDAMPITT@MAIL.COM
ST JOHN'S FARRINGTON GURNEY (I)
ST JOHN'S CHURCH BS39 6UW (R)

IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE

Christingle

TUESDAY 24TH DEC
3PM

PAULTON-BENEFICE.ORG.UK



Thought for the Week

***'The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (Matthew 2:11 NIV)**



I crept slowly towards her as she sat cradling her son. Although the conditions were dirty and unpleasant, she seemed so happy – so content. She sat gazing at the small boy, with such a natural smile on her face. How could this scene be so impoverished yet at the same time so tender, so serene and so full of love.

I knelt down a few feet away from them and looked around me. Although there were a group of us, five of us in all, we tried so hard to make no noise. We didn't want to wake him; he was sleeping so peacefully.

My friend Balthasar presented our first gift - gold. As he bent down and laid it at the woman's feet, I thought again about why we had brought him this gift. We had scrutinized many ancient texts from many different cultures and several of them predicted the arrival of a great leader who would come from Judah. We believed that this was him. We had spent many years studying the stars and the heavenly bodies and it was now that Regulus, Jupiter and Saturn were all in conjunction. Regulus, known as the Royal Star, Jupiter, known as the Planet of Kings and Saturn, referred to as the shield of Israel, had all

aligned to create this glorious bright light in the sky.

We knew that this promised leader would be like a King. The prophet Isaiah said that:

*'His government and its peace will never end.
He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David
for all eternity.'* (Isaiah 9:7)

So that's why we brought him gold. A precious metal, fit for a King.

As I gazed on this beautiful moment in front of me, the second gift was presented. We had brought him frankincense, which as an oil was much more valuable even than gold. It could be made into a perfume that produced such a heavenly scent, that it was often seen as a divine aroma. This gift reminded us that the promised leader, or Messiah, would be like a priest, a Holy leader guiding people towards God. Some prophecies stated that the Messiah would actually be God himself.





*'For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'* (Isaiah 9:6)

This was someone who had been spoken of for many, many years. A promised leader, a King, a priest and even God incarnate. I tried to take it all in - this incredible moment in time.

Whilst I sat and watched, distracted by my thoughts, I felt someone nudging me. I looked to my left and there was Melchior, a disgruntled look on his face. With his head, he gestured towards where the mother and child were sitting. Then he looked down and indicated the small box that was by my feet. This was our last gift, the gift that I was meant to present. I had been so busy enjoying the moment, contemplating my thoughts, that I had almost forgotten that I had been asked to offer it.

I started to get up, the gift now in my hands and then I stopped myself. I knelt back down.

Why did I have to present this gift? Why couldn't I have given the gold or the incense, gifts that signified the child's glory, kingship and divinity? Why had I been chosen to give this final gift?

The other men were now looking at me, confused as to why I wasn't moving. I looked down at the box of myrrh and then up at Mary who was sitting directly in front of me. She had a concerned look on her face, probably because she could see the pained expression that was on mine. As I looked at this young woman and the innocence of the child in her arms, I started to well up and a single tear slid down my face. Her look changed from one of concern to one of love, as if she understood the turmoil that I was going through.

You see, although we knew the Messiah would be a divine king, we had also read one of Isaiah's later prophecies.

*'But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.
He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed...
Unjustly condemned, he was led away...
He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone.
But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.'* (Isaiah 53: 5-9)

Myrrh was used like incense, it also had medicinal purposes and some people thought it also created an exquisite perfume. But myrrh was most commonly used for anointing the dead.

With a wretched look on my face, I rose and walked towards mother and child. He was still fast asleep. I silently dropped to my knees and placed the box at their feet, the tears now running down my cheeks. This Messiah was born to die and I was the one to present his mother with the gift that was meant to anoint his body.

After waiting a moment, I stood up and turned, preparing myself to go back to where the others were kneeling. I happened to glance at Mary as I went and I noticed that her eyes too were wet with tears. She smiled at me again. This wasn't a happy smile - it was a smile of understanding and also one of thankfulness. Although this was a time of joy for her, she also knew what was going to happen and who her child was destined to become. But she accepted it all willingly as would her son Jesus, when his time came. (adapted from *Matthew 2: 1-11*)

