



I look forward to the week when we don't have to mention Covid restrictions in the school newsletter, but unfortunately we haven't quite reached that point yet. You will have read a few announcements last week following the most recent delay in easing restrictions by the Government and subsequently, a letter to parents from the Trust. We have also had a Primary Headteachers' meeting this week which has clarified what will and will not be happening before the end of term in schools across the Trust.

- **Sports Days** - I understand the disappointment of parents in regard to this decision, but all schools in the Trust have been instructed to not hold a Sports Day with spectators. In small schools like ours we do not have the resources to ensure that people attending would be in groups of no more than 30, ensuring all adults remain socially distanced at all times, given that our focus would be on the children. This is a decision that has been made at Trust level. The children will all get the opportunity to take part in many of the usual Sports Day activities before the end of term.
- **School Trips** - We are really pleased that all classes are able to take part in trips before the summer break. It is unfortunate that the Class 3 trip to Birmingham had to be cancelled due to increased cases within that area but Mr Marvin has worked hard to find an alternative closer to home, made more difficult by lots of providers either not opening to schools or being booked. A letter will be emailed to Class 3 parents early next week.
- **School Production** - Class 4 and Mr Dix have worked really hard over the last few weeks on our production. Unfortunately we are not able to present this as a live event, but will record it and share with all of the parents. There may be the opportunity for the other children to watch some of the play in the last week of term.
- **Transition** - As we are not allowed to mix bubbles within school, or mix with children from other settings, this means our transition will look different this year. We won't be able to get the new classes together, but each teacher will spend some time with the children who will be new to their class. We are still able to offer the new parents' carousel morning on Tuesday as this is outside and there will only be a handful of parents involved at one time.

Please understand that all of the decisions that are made, are first and foremost for the safety of our whole school community in the current climate. I have had two days working from home this week, initially waiting for my own child's PCR test result and then looking after him as the nursery he attends was shut following a positive case. There have also been positive cases in another local nursery and several trust schools. Not only do we want to keep all of you safe, but we also want to try and avoid any impact this might have on your well-deserved summer holidays. As always if you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us in the school office. We will continue to update you with any developments.

We are now able to let you know how the classes will look in September. This has been decided following discussions with staff and Governors. Each class will have a lead teacher who will oversee the planning and delivery of the class and teach for the majority of the week as follows: Class 1 - Ms Mason, Class 2 - Miss Shutter, Class 3 - Mrs Glover, Class 4 - Mr Dix. In Classes 2 and 3, Mr Marvin will teach some maths as well as R.E. (his specialist subjects) as the lead teachers do not work the full week. The main benefit of this structure is that we will be able to go back to four classes in the afternoons. For those of you who weren't at the school before March 2020, we used to run three split classes in the afternoons. This was initially set up to support transition but also as a cost-saving exercise. When we last polled parents, over two-thirds preferred the four class structure so we are really pleased to be able to deliver that from September. We will of course still be able to provide afternoon sessions such as EcoWild, dance, swimming lessons and other sporting opportunities (football lessons are booked in for Key Stage 2 in September).

We will let you know about the results for Class 4's Net Zero Project next week. Have a great weekend

Mr Turull



Class 1 Trip to Bristol Aquarium

The children all thoroughly enjoyed their trip to The Bristol Aquarium last Friday. They saw a variety of different sea creatures including stingrays, catsharks, octopi and terrapins.

Interesting facts about octopi - they have blue blood, three hearts and the senses at the bottom of their suckers help them to "taste" whatever they touch.

They loved getting wet when feeding the fish as the fish were so keen to get to their food. They also enjoyed a workshop where they learned about different varieties of sharks and looked at artefacts related to them. The children all behaved really well and were a credit to our school. Well done Class 1



Bookbarn Visits

All our classes have visited the Bookbarn in the last few days as part of independent booksellers week. The children have received a book and a £5 voucher which can be spent in The Bookbarn if they return with their parents or families. All the children had a full tour of the facility and were able to understand the process from delivery through to dispatch.



Notices

- **COVID-19** - Please can you keep us informed of any positive Covid tests in your families and note below the BANES Public Health message.
- **Clubs** - all clubs will be running as usual next week.
- **Hats and Sunscreen** - with the hot weather, children must have sunscreen applied before school and bring a named hat with them to school please.
- **Music for Schools** - next week's lesson is the last one for this term.
- **Pine Cones** - a couple of parents have contacted us regarding children throwing pine cones at each other in the play park after school. They are concerned that this could result in an injury.
- **St. John's Church** - Sunday Service link to join Rev Adam Pitt:
<https://mailchi.mp/99c972cb2541/paulton-benefice-zoom-service-13486543>



Friends of Farrington Gurney School

FOFGS are the lucky recipient of a Mulberry bag which we will be raffling (online) very soon! More details next week; it would be brilliant if we can share far and wide on social media so we raise as much as possible for school.

We are also planning an event for school families, but we are waiting for the announcement about Covid restrictions being eased before confirming the details.

Diary Dates

Monday 28th June	Governors' Meeting
Tuesday 29th June	New Parents Transition Carousel Morning
	Year 5/6 Football Tournament
Wednesday 30th June	Swimming (Class 4)
	EcoWild (Year 2)
Monday 5th July	Reception children - Vision Test (school nurse)
Wednesday 7th July	Class 2 Trip to Noah's Ark Zoo

BANES Public Health

Please read below the message from BANES regarding Covid testing using LFT and PCR.

- All staff and secondary /college students - please continue to undertake Lateral Flow Test (LFT) testing at least twice a week
- All adults in families/households with children aged under 11 - please continue to undertake LFT testing at least twice a week
- In the event of a positive LFT or the onset of COVID symptoms, a PCR test must be taken to confirm the case, and the individual and their contacts MUST self-isolate straightaway
- Contacts of a positive case are now also encouraged to take a PCR test, even without symptoms, to quickly detect secondary cases. Please remind contacts that if their PCR test is negative they must still continue to isolate for the remainder of their isolation period as they could still be incubating the virus

Norton Sports and Camping

Our uniform suppliers have asked us to provide you with the following information:

Just a quick note to let you know that we have introduced a new website (www.nortonsports.co.uk) providing the opportunity for your parents/carers (and indeed yourselves) to order items of school uniform on a click and collect basis. The site provides illustrations of the uniform together with sizes, prices and availability. We have limited the webs use to click and collect because, as a general rule, we have found that it is better to try items on before purchase. However, if requested we will dispatch items by post, with an appropriate charge.



Farrington's Thought for the Week by Mr Marvin



Are you a Marvel fan? Well if not, please don't switch off yet - there may still be something here for you.

Disney have recently released a new series about a Marvel character called Loki. He is a version of the Viking god of mischief and in the series, Loki, played by Tom Hiddleston, is a variant. This means that he is no longer working within the 'sacred timeline', he has deviated away from what is meant to happen and has started a new skewed timeline. For some of you, it might be better to mention the alternative timeline in Back to the Future 2. It's a bit like that, but in the Marvel universe, if you move away from the sacred timeline, then the 'Time Variance Authority' or TVA will come and remove you from your deviated timeline and erase this new timeline altogether. Then you become known as a variant and become incarcerated.

Now, if you are confused, don't worry. It is a bit tricky to follow at first, especially as the Loki in the series is actually Loki from 2012. He soon finds out that if he continues to follow the sacred timeline as he is meant to, he will be killed by a huge purple "baddy" called Thanos in 2018. It doesn't really encourage him to go 'back to reality' and so he decides to work with the TVA in the Null-Time Zone dimension to try and catch other variants (or one in particular).

There are several things I have enjoyed about the first couple of episodes. The Marvel films and series often manage to mix several genres and this doesn't disappoint. There is action and mystery, there is also a lot of humour and it certainly won't disappoint any science fiction fans. There is also a great buddy relationship forming between Loki and Mobius M. Mobius, one of the TVA executives. There's something for everyone, but please feel free to tune in and prove me wrong.

Well believe it or not, this series has got me thinking about a verse in the Bible. In Proverbs 16:9 it says:

*'In their hearts human plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps.'*

For most of us, we live our lives deciding what we are going to do and when. We like to believe we have control over what happens and apart from the obvious restrictions like work, the weather and covid, we often choose what we do with our time.

But in the Bible it says that God is in control of what happens and when, that although we might make plans, it is the Lord that allows and confirms them. For Christians, it is important to know that although they make decisions about their day, there is someone else behind what actually happens, someone who is controlling the 'sacred timeline'.

So the next time you're unsure about what is happening and don't understand why things aren't 'going to plan', maybe it's because you have deviated from the 'sacred timeline'. It might be time to ask for directions.

