

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL

We are proud of our long history and of our position at the heart of the village community of Farrington Gurney. We have served the village since 1852 when the original schoolroom, now Class 4, accommodated the whole school. The main building, which was extended in 1894, retains many original and historically interesting features such as a large fireplace and numerous inscriptions, most of which remain as valid today as in the 19<sup>th</sup> century! The school roll is low compared to others, currently numbering 88 children between the ages of 4 and 11. For the next few years, we are expecting large intakes in Reception which will boost our numbers further.

The school enjoys an attractive setting in the village overlooking the playing fields and pleasant surrounding countryside. The premises comprises two principal classroom blocks: the relatively-new, purpose-designed “Phoenix” building, housing the Reception children and Years 1 and 2 and the lunch servery; and the Junior classes, the Study and staff room, situated in the original Victorian Building. All children are taught using interactive whiteboards, and we have a laptop bank, enabling whole classes to access individual computers for every pupil in their lessons. The Library is situated in the “Garden Room” and is also used as an area for small group work. Our stock of quality books ensures we have up-to-date reference books for children’s research. We also have “Junior Librarian” technology, allowing the children to borrow and return books independently using the thumbprint scanner. If you have any questions about the use of this technology, please do not hesitate to ask the Executive Head for details.

Governors, pupils and staff, parents, grandparents and others in the community, have contributed time and expertise to transform the playground into an attractive and interesting area. We accessed a substantial grant to develop our grounds with a new garden, complete with raised pond, planting and seating areas.

We offer a range of outdoor games and other recreational activities using our playground and also taking full advantage of the village play-park, playing fields, the Memorial Hall and tennis court, all conveniently situated directly opposite the school, which provide invaluable P.E. and Arts facilities for the children.





The school is voluntarily controlled by the Church of England and we enjoy close links with the Parish Church. Although we are maintained by the Local Authority, under Local Management of Schools arrangements, the Governors are responsible for managing the school's finances and operations. This means that many of the major management decisions affecting the school are made at a local level.

We also have good, strong links with parents and they give us excellent support - we regard education as a partnership. We have a thriving PTA, "Friends of Farrington Gurney School", and parents are welcomed into school to help children learn and assist in other ways.

Standards are high and we have high expectations of behaviour. We have no exclusions and excellent attendance rates. We promote self-esteem – everyone is valued. We reward success and are rewarded in turn by our pupils' extremely positive attitudes to learning and school life. We also welcome and celebrate innovation, initiative and creativity.

Any publication of this type can only aim to provide a flavour of the school or, more importantly, of its children and staff, who are the life and blood of the school. We would, therefore, urge and welcome you to visit us to see at first hand what we have to offer.

### **School Organisation**

The school is organised in four class units:

- Class 1 - Reception (four and five year olds)
- Class 2 - Years 1 and 2 (five to seven year olds)
- Class 3 - Years 3 and 4 (seven to nine year olds)
- Class 4 - Years 5 and 6 (nine to eleven year olds)

Each class comprises mixed ability children and the class sizes are normally small in comparison to most other primary schools, averaging low 20s.