



Parent Bulletin

10th November 2025 Week B

All years – "BASIC Teaching" book launch, authored by Farmor's Assistant Headteacher Claire Wells:

We are delighted to announce that on Monday 3rd November Claire Wells, our Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning), launched her new book "Basic Teaching" co-authored with Andy Buck and Francesca Ainslie. This is a superb guide for both new and experienced teachers, featuring research-led practical guidance about how to teach and get students thinking hard all of the time. Claire's writing is based on her several decades of experience as a passionate and highly effective teacher, including most recently at Farmor's School. It is such a pleasure to have Claire working with our staff and students. She gets us thinking about our teaching all the time, challenging us to get even better, and for that we are most grateful. We wish Claire the best of luck with her book, which has been published under her maiden name Claire Rohdie. Thank you, Mark Surowiec, Headteacher

All years – Lockdown Drill: In all schools, it is now common practice to put in place the necessary preparations for an eventuality that might require a 'lockdown'. This means signalling a special alarm and keeping students and staff indoors, quiet and away from a potential source of danger – for example in the unlikely event of a potentially dangerous intruder on site. We have been briefing students today on what the signal sounds like, and what actions they should take if they hear it (Year 9 will receive their briefing on Monday). We will be running a 'drill' to rehearse this soon. If they ask any questions, please reassure your child that this is a routine procedure, designed to help keep our school community as safe as possible. Thank you, Mark Surowiec, Headteacher

All years – Remembrance (from Mrs Wells): I have had the pleasure of leading assemblies this week to commemorate Remembrance Day. We have thought about Remembrance Day as a time for reflection. Time to reflect on the horrors of war and to honour those who gave their lives. I shared an interview my son had held with my Mum where she talked about her experiences of being evacuated as a child during World War II.

We have also thought about the importance of Remembrance Day as a time to learn lessons from the past, to build peace and ensure such horrors do not happen again. We looked at two statues . One in Northern Ireland called 'Hands across the Divide' which was built as a symbol of peace and reconciliation after the troubles. The other statue is in Hiroshima which is a tribute to a girl who died aged 12 from radiation sickness as a result of the nuclear bomb dropped at the end of the war. The words on the statue are: "This is our cry. This is our prayer: To create peace in the world."

I was very impressed at how beautifully our students listened during the assembly. As a school we will be holding a two-minute silence at 11am on Tuesday 11th. Our History Department will also be giving some readings to commemorate Remembrance Day in the Library at lunchtime. If your child has a link to the Forces (e.g. a cadet) they are invited to wear their uniform on Tuesday 11th. Thank you to our Year 13 Heads of School who will be laying a wreath and representing Farmor's at the service in Fairford on Sunday.

All years – Flu Immunisations Thursday 20th & Friday 21st of November: The immunisation team will visit school to deliver the flu vaccinations to all consented students from Year 7 up to and including Year 11. Please see [this letter](#) for information about the vaccination, a link to the online consent form and the Unique Reference Number (URN): This will close at midday on the working day before our schools scheduled session date. [This leaflet](#) has helpful information which you may wish to share with your child.

All years – Year 7-11 Careers Newsletter. Only a short one this week with a update on the upcoming Careers Fair on Wednesday morning, plus a reminder of Sixth Form open evening on Thursday: [here](#).

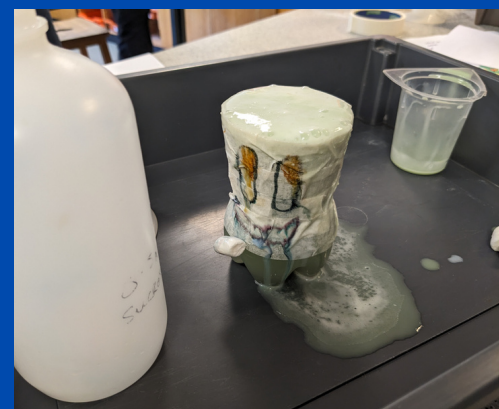
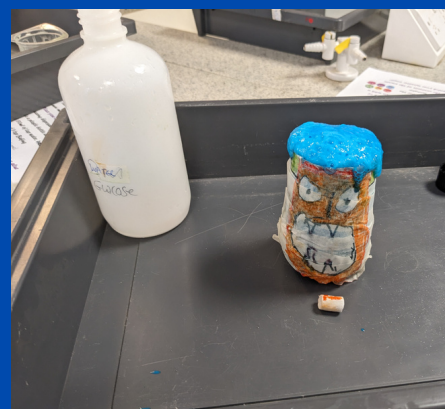
All years – Music Mark of Recognition: We are delighted to announce that Farmor's School has been awarded the 'Music Mark of Recognition for Ambition and Quality', a professional accreditation from Music Mark who to support and enable the music education sector to deliver high-quality musical and social outcomes for all children and young people.



DoFe – Payment Information: For all parents who have paid the registration fee for their child's bronze, silver or gold DoFe award, the link to pay the remaining balance is now on your ParentPay account. This balance needs to be paid in full by January the 30th 2026.

All years: The washing machine in our PE department is no longer working – if anyone has a working machine machine that they are happy to donate, we would be very grateful and arrange collection. If you are able to help, please contact Mr Hockey at: PHockey@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

All years – Science Club: This week saw Science Club take on a Halloween theme by making slime monsters. Our scientists used Borax, acetic acid and sodium hydrogen carbonate to generate a slime fountain out of the head of self-designed monster.



Years 7, 8 & 9 – PE Curriculum changes: As we head into the winter term the way we structure the curriculum for KS3 girls (Y7,8,9) will change. From Monday 24th November we will be teaching Hockey in the lesson that was netball. This is to give the girls enough experience of hockey before we head into our main hockey block. With this in mind, we highly recommend that all girls wear gum shields in lessons. They will need shin pads as a compulsory item, they will also be able to wear these for the football block. Gum shields are a compulsory requirement for any student who plays in a hockey fixture for school. Here are two gum shields at different price points. Please can you name your child's gum shield so that we can return it to them if they lose it. Gum shield 1: [here](#). Gum shield 2: [here](#).

Year 9 – Trip to Normandy, Château de la Baudonnière: At the end of term one a group of 24 Year 9 French students embarked on a trip to the Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy. The aim of the trip was to immerse students in the French language and culture. It was a huge success! The pupils were enthusiastic and friendly with everyone they met, not once deterred by slightly damp weather. Their shared experiences have made their friendships stronger, and they have learned new skills along the way. The most popular activities were bread-making, aeroball, mud-running and, dare I say, shopping and eating! Pupils also enjoyed speaking French with their friends at mealtimes which helped them improve their vocabulary. They took part in excursions such as visiting St Malo and a typical French market. Here are some comments we've had from pupils:

"I had the most fantastic trip and I speak French better than I did!" Cairenn 9ST

"The trip was really fun and I really enjoyed the trip. I liked being in France for 4 nights away and especially the shops" Ellie 9ST. "I really enjoyed travelling" Imogen Clements . "Second year of doing this trip and really loved it, even better than the first year. With the best students". Mr Jackson. "I had the best time in France" Eivie 9ST



Safeguarding:

Online Safety Newsletter for November 2025 – [here](#).

Parental Controls Booklet 2025 – [here](#).

Letters to parents: [here](#)

- Year 7-11 Careers Newsletter for the w/c 15th September: [here](#).
- **All years:** Attendance – [here](#).
- **Year 8:** Science Trip to Oxford Update – [here](#).
- **Year 11:** Mock Exams and Summer Exams Information Letter – [here](#).

