



# Fairholme Focus

Volume 6, Issue 3

February 2015

## New Year Reflections

Welcome to 2015! This has been a very hard working half term with revision and exam week for Forms III to VI and preparation for entrance exams for Form VII. Despite this important work schedule, we have also thrown ourselves into many exciting activities. Children have been enjoy-

ing the excellent newly refurbished ICT facilities in lessons and enrichment clubs, 'Through the Looking Glass' rehearsals have begun, sports clubs have continued through break times and children have been honing their art skills in preparation for our forthcoming art exhibition. It is now with some relief, therefore, that we have the chance of a slight break and time for reflection!

## Breaking All Records!

It has been a record breaking year for Form VII in their secondary school entrance examinations. The results so far are proving to be outstanding.

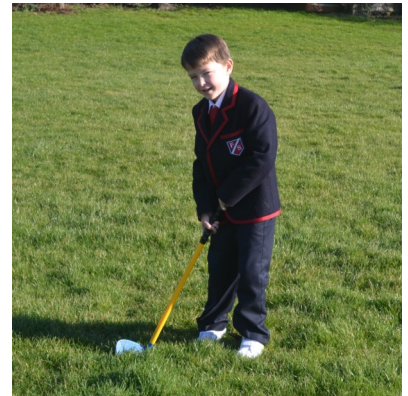
Adding to the 12 places offered by the Wirral Grammar Schools from earlier examinations, a further 14 places, including no less than 8 academic scholarships, have been offered by Ruthin school.

A 100% pass rate has been achieved at both King's and Queen's Schools, with one Entrance Scholarship award for King's, and a triple academic, art and music scholarship has been offered by Moreton Hall.

Entrance and scholarship exams for St Brigid's and Rydal Penrhos have been taken and the results are eagerly awaited. In addition to academic scholarships, a number of our extremely talented children have entered for art, music, sport and drama awards.

This has been a fantastic effort by all and a huge vote of thanks goes to Mrs. Hall for guiding everyone through the examination process!

The results are a credit to the school and the pupils and reflect the skill and dedication of our staff. The range of choice available to our children illustrates well the benefits of our independence as a primary school and the excellent links we maintain with all secondary schools.



Welcome to Sid!

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### Special points of interest:

- Open Day – Saturday, 7th March, a chance for prospective parents to see Fairholme and for all to attend our Art Exhibition as well as preview our forthcoming production!
- 'Through the Looking Glass' – read all about auditions – here on page 3
- Breaking All Records – Read about great exam successes in Form VII
- Billy Bin It – School Council provides new bins for Fairholme – see page 4



Fairholme is now enrolling for Kindergarten

*Visitors' Open Day at Fairholme School*

March 7th, 10am-3pm

Join us for our special "Alice Through the Looking Glass" Open Day

- Themed art exhibition
- Mad Hatter's tea party
- Musical entertainment
- Exclusive show preview
- Tour of new computer lab

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### More?

Just before Christmas, the drama group spent an extra week at school for a Victorian drama workshop. Children from Form II to Form VII enjoyed bringing the story of 'Oliver Twist' to life, a simple adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel. Great fun was had by all, not just in acting and singing, but also painting London scenes and making programmes using the brand new computers. A Christmas treat for all!



### Brushing Up Skills

This term we are holding a Children's Art Exhibition as part of our Open Day on Saturday, 7th March, 10am – 3pm. All the children, KG to Form VII, have been very busy producing some stunning, Alice themed artwork, using a variety of techniques.

Framed pictures will be available to view and buy on this day, in the conservatory. You'll be very impressed when you see our children's beautiful pictures, professionally mounted, framed, catalogued and displayed in the gallery.

We are hoping as many of you as possible will make it along to admire all the hard work children have been putting into their artwork this term. The Visual Arts play a big part in the life of the school – it's an area that every child can enjoy and play a full part in. The Art Curriculum encourages display and seeing their own framed pictures on display will be a big occasion for the children. Having someone special to show it to will add a lovely finishing touch for them, so make a space in your diary for this very special event.



### A Touching Experience!

Many of you will have had the chance to see our newly re-equipped computer room this term; if not, do come and have a look!

We have now installed the latest all-in-one touch screen PCs which, together with the recent upgrade to fibre-optic broadband, give us a blisteringly fast computing facility.

The children (and staff) have quickly taken to the new option of keyboard/mouse or touch screen operation and the computer room is busier than ever, both during the school day and before and after it.



## Cathy Cassidy Signing

Form VII enjoyed attending a presentation and book signing at The King's School this week by the best-selling children's author, Cathy Cassidy. Cathy Cassidy is the author of very popular and critically renowned children's and teenage fiction and has been nominated for the "Queen of Teen" Award three times, winning in 2010 and runner up in 2012. She was promoting the paperback

edition of 'Sweet Honey', her latest book in the Chocolate Box Girl series.

This was a very exciting opportunity for children to meet a real-live writer, and to find out about her life to date. Signed copies of the book were available to purchase and the talk by the author proved to be an inspiration for us all.

## Reeling with Rabbie

Burn's Night was once again marked this term listening to various poems and songs by Robert Burns, followed by the customary Scottish dance performed by Fairholme early birds – this time a rendition of 'The Eight-some Reel', with our boy dancers causing much amusement!



## Neat Moves in 'Alice' Auditions

This half term we have started working towards our next musical show, "Through the Looking Glass". Each of the classes have begun reading a version of the story and the music and drama departments have been working hard in preparation for the main event.

Lewis Carroll's work, based around a game of chess, is enthralling many of the children – the younger children enjoying the variety of characters from Humpty Dumpty and the talking flowers to the monster, scary Jabberwocky, and the older children hopefully appreciating the humour within a vast array of wordplay, puns and nonsense.

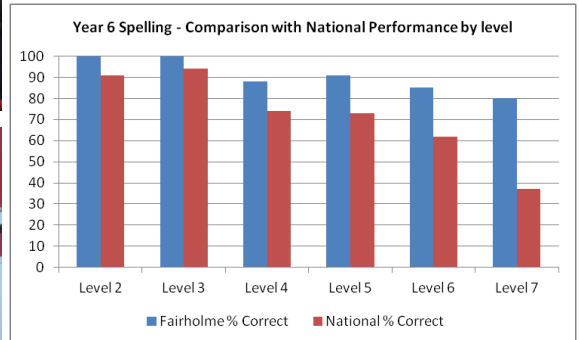
We were amazed by the outstanding interest shown at auditions held over the last two weeks. The emerging talent in all classes allowed to take part, from Form V to Form VII, was very much in evidence. Children showed extreme enthusiasm in both serious and comic parts and performed so well in such a variety of roles that it was extremely difficult to fix the final two casts, which will be affectionately named – 'Tweedledee' and 'Tweedledum' casts. We hope that you will invite as many friends and family as possible to ensure that we have a full house for each of our two performances and offer as much support as we can for our excellent young performers.

## Messy Play

This half term Kindergarten has been busy getting their hands very messy using different materials. Firstly, we have enjoyed squashing jelly stones in a bowl then Miss. Pett made some colourful spaghetti at home and Kindergarten took pleasure in pulling it apart, wiggling, shaking and squishing it. Gelli baff



was another messy activity which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We will be continuing to make more mess next half term!!



## Spellbound

We operate a scheme of spelling at Fairholme which runs progressively from Form I through to Form VII, focussing on the high frequency words in the early years and building up to a comprehensive and challenging vocabulary by the time the children reach the top of the school.

The spellbinding success of the scheme is well illustrated by the latest standardised test results. The graph above shows Form VII (year 6) group spelling performance compared with national overall performance. At each spelling level, Fairholme pupils out-perform the national average and the extent to which this happens increases as the spelling levels become harder. At the hardest level tested, our pupils performance is more than twice the national average (80% achieved against 37%). Keep working on those spellings everyone – some fantastic results this year!

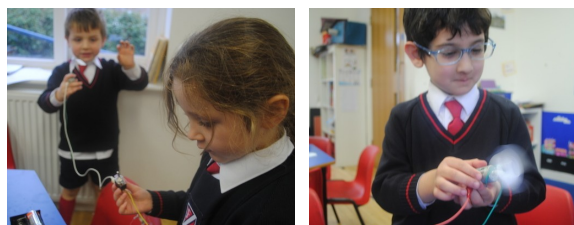
## Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 16 February – Wednesday 18 February 10am – 3pm	Form I upwards	Sports Camp
Tuesday 24 February	Forms IV – VII	Cardboard People Creative Workshop (please collect newspapers and cardboard boxes for this event)
Saturday 7 March 10am – 3pm	Forms VII, ALICE main cast & windband Parents and visitors welcome	OPEN DAY & ART EXHIBITION A chance for prospective parents to see the school and parents to visit our art exhibition and Alice preview
Monday 16 March and Tuesday 17 March 3.30-4.30	Parents welcome	School Uniform Sale (Forrester Sports) and Book Fair School Dining Room
Monday 23 March am	ALL	Dress Rehearsal Through the Looking Glass
Tuesday 24 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	Through the Looking Glass Whole School Musical Production
Wednesday 25 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	Through the Looking Glass Whole School Musical Production
Monday 30 March – Wednesday 1 April, 10am – 3pm	Form I upwards	Sports Camp
Thursday 30 April	Form VI/VII	Junior Maths Challenge
Friday 1 May	Form VI team	Ruthin Maths Challenge
Thursday 7 May TO BE CONFIRMED	Piano/Singing / Instrumental students	ABRSM Music Examinations
Tuesday 19 May, Wednesday 20 May	Forms VI & VII Forms IV & V	LAMDA Speech and Drama Examinations
Thursday 9 July	ALL Parents welcome	End of Year Celebration St. Asaph Cathedral

### Bin It!



Well done to the school Council for raising enough money from fruit sales for the lovely new bins now located outside in the playground area. Let's make sure all our litter goes to Billy Bin It!



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### Live Wires!

As part of our 'Houses and Homes' topic in Form I this term, we have been looking at electricity. The children have had the opportunity to build a simple circuit to light a bulb and power a motor. Despite experiencing some difficulties manipulating the crocodile clips, the children persevered, eager to light up their bulb. There was much excitement when we attached paper to the motor and they could all see it spin round like a fan or propeller!!