



Fairholme Focus

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Form VII's Trail of Success

Welcome to 2016! 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. Once again, Form VII have exceeded all expectations with a full 100% success in all entrance exams – Ruthin, King's, Queen's, Grammar Schools, St. Brigid's, Rydal Pehrhos, Middleton College and Abbey Gate. The class of 9 has gained no fewer than 12 scholarships – 3

King's Entrance Scholarships, 1 Queen's Scholarship, 6 academic scholarships to Ruthin and a double academic and music scholarship to the new Myddleton College. A fantastic effort from all our Form VII pupils. Congratulations both to the children and to Mrs. Hall for guiding them all through the process so fearlessly!



Wild Science Open Day – 5th March!

Make sure that you don't miss our forthcoming Open Day for visitors, current pupils and parents when children and parents will have an opportunity to encounter a huge variety of wildlife – mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Tours of the School, classroom activities and displays, musical interludes and 'Peter Pan' drama preview will also be available for all to enjoy.

Children should come along in their own clothes unless they are helping run the day (Form VI and VII). We hope as many of you as possible will join us for this special event.

Fairholme School
 **Wild Science**
Open Day
 "Inspiration Through Discovery"

Saturday, 5th March
10am - 3pm



Settling into KG

This half term we welcomed Aidan, Evie, Felix, Isaac and Ismail to Kindergarten. The new starters have settled quickly into school life. They have been making new friends, trying new activities and crafts and learning about traditional tales. The children are all enjoying sitting together to eat the yummy school meals, learning to use their knife and forks correctly.



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Special points of interest:

- Open Day – Saturday, 5h March, a chance for prospective parents to see Fairholme and for all to attend our Wild Science Day!
- 'Peter Pan' – read all about auditions – here on page 3
- Trail of Success – Read about great exam successes in Form VII
- ActivPanel – Form II embrace latest technology!



Day for Change

This half-term we held a non-uniform day, cake sale and raffle in aid of UNICEF.

In assembly we discovered how children in various parts of the world have benefitted from the work of this charity by being provided with medicine, food, clean water and access to clinics. We focussed in particular on the plight of families in Nepal after the 2015 earthquake and heard what children had to say about living through this ordeal.

The day was a great success, we raised £300 and delicious cakes were enjoyed by all! B.G.

Form I Field Trip

Form I have been finding out about houses and homes this half term. We have looked at different types of houses, home life long ago and houses in other parts of the world. Our role play area has been a construction site and the children have really enjoyed being builders and architects! As part of our topic we decided to go on a field trip to look at houses and other buildings in the local area. Due to the recent windy and wet weather the children were often left disappointed as we had to keep delaying!

Finally we were able to go! The children were armed with their clipboards and checklist sheets and their fantastic observational skills! They thoroughly en-



joyed the experience and their behaviour was exceptional. Well done, Form I!



Online Science Experiment

As part of their 'Keeping Warm' topic in Science, Form V have completed an online BBC Bitesize experiment to determine 'Which material is the best thermal insulator?'

They performed a fair test by investigating whether polystyrene, cardboard or silver foil was the best at keeping the liquid in the beaker the warmest over a sixty minute period. They observed how the temperature of the liquid changed and recorded the readings at 10 minute intervals in a table. They concluded that polystyrene was the best thermal insulator as it does easily let heat pass through.



Helpful Bugs

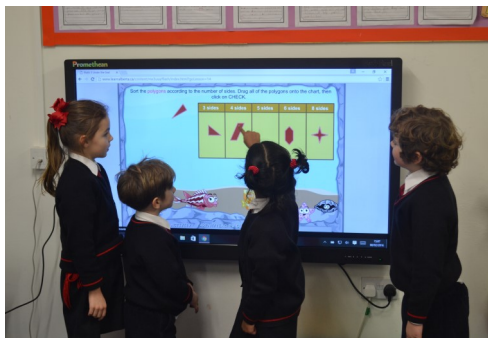
This term Form VII has been looking at Micro-organisms and their uses. During their work on helpful micro-organisms they conducted an experiment to try to ascertain the optimum temperature for yeast to work.

Having recorded the temperature of the water, the pupils made up a solution of yeast and sugar which was poured into a plastic bottle and then a balloon was placed securely over the neck of the bottle. The children watched to see if the balloon began to inflate, providing evidence that the yeast was feeding on the sugar and giving off carbon dioxide.

After careful observation, the pupils came to the conclusion that the yeast was most active between 27 and 36 degrees C. If the water was too cold or too hot then the yeast appeared to be inactive.

Interactive

Following a trial in Early Years, we have now installed another touchscreen ActivPanel in Form II. The panels provide a great interactive teaching resource that can be used to support learning in all subjects across the curriculum. The children have taken to them straight away and can be seen here sorting 2-dimensional shapes in a mathematics lesson and locating different countries on the world map during one of our multicultural assemblies – certainly a very versatile piece of equipment.

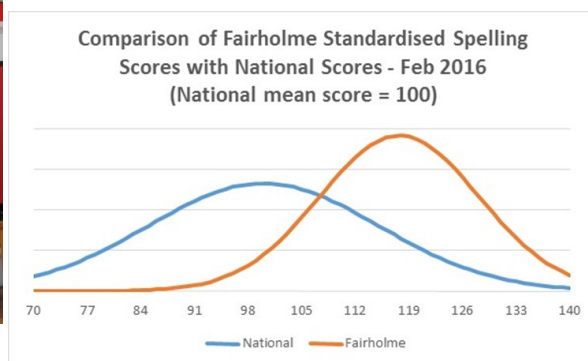


Spell-Check

To monitor the effectiveness of our progressive spelling scheme, the children periodically undertake computer-based standardised single word spelling tests provided by GL Assessment

The results of the latest round of tests, from Form II through to Form VII are shown in the graph below,

It's good to see that our children are performing significantly better than the national population of their age groups. Our mean spelling age is 20% higher than the national average and our pupils are much more tightly grouped around this than is the case nationally



Burns Night Celebrations

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 Eightsome Reel', with enthusiastic dancers from Form VI. We finished by singing 'Auld Lang Syne' - words written, as you probably guessed, by Robert Burns.



Flying in 'Peter Pan' Auditions

This half term we have started working towards our next musical show, 'Peter Pan'. 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. Ballet classes are full of keen mermaids, fairies and Indian Braves and music classes are resounding with the sound of our new songs.



We were amazed by the outstanding interest shown at auditions held last

week. The emerging talent in all classes was very much in evidence.

As always, it was extremely difficult to fix the final two casts; we endeavour to give as many children a chance to speak and sing as possible, giving priority to Forms VI and VII.

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.

Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 15 February – Wednesday 17 February	Form I upwards	Sports Camp 10am – 3pm
Thursday 3 March	ALL	World Book Day Come to school dressed as your favourite book character
 Saturday 5 March 10am – 3pm 	Pupils, parents and visitors welcome (Forms VI/VII, PETER PAN main cast & windband to assist – in school uniform)	 Wild Science Open Day A chance for prospective parents to see the school and Fairholme children & parents to enjoy our Wild Science, classroom activities and 'Peter Pan' preview
Wednesday 9 March am	Form VI and VII	Maths Fun Day at Rydal Penrhos
Thursday 10 March 10am	Form V	Trip to 'Her Benny' Rhyl Pavilion
Thursday 10 March and Friday 11 March 3.30-4.30	Parents welcome	School Uniform Sale (Forrester Sports) and Book Fair School Dining Room
Tuesday 15 March am	ALL	Dress Rehearsal Peter Pan
Thursday 17 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	Peter Pan Whole School Musical Production
Friday 18 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	Peter Pan Whole School Musical Production
Thursday 24 March	Form I upwards	Sports Camp (10am – 3pm)
Tuesday 26 April	ALL	School Photographs
Thursday 28 April	Form VI/VII	Junior Maths Challenge
Friday 29 April	Form VI team	Ruthin Maths Challenge
Tuesday 24 May, Wednesday 25 May	Forms VI & VII Forms IV & V	LAMDA Speech and Drama Examinations



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Welcome to
Imogen, Felix,
Isaac, Ismael,
Evie and Aidan!