



Fairholme Focus

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December 2021

Christmas at Fairholme

The approach to Christmas is always a special time at Fairholme. We have continued to record events throughout the term and Christmas, of course, was no exception. The younger children have been working hard in preparation for the Nativity Play which, this year, involved a robin and a flock of birds excited to find the baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

The older children have put on a fun production based on 'The Polar Express' and all pupils have contributed to the online Christmas Carol Service.

We have, of course, missed inviting parents into school to share in our celebrations, and were therefore delighted to perform live at St. Asaph Cathedral for the Lovelight Charity Concert last week.

Christmas

Welcome to Thamilisa, Thashvin, Logan, Annabelle, Erin, Frazer, Eadlin, Isaac, Piranitha, Adam and Zita!



Inside this issue:

News	2
Music, Sport and Enrichment	3
Environmental Issues	3
Form Assemblies	4-5
Craft, Design & Technology	6
Maths and Science	7
Christmas	8

Special points of interest:

- Read about our 100% Wirral Grammar School success and further Form VII achievements – page 2
- A warm welcome to our new Sports Coach with news and pictures from PE and enrichment in Sports Slot on page 3
- STOP – find out about Anti-bullying week and how we can cheer with 'One Kind Word' on page 4
- Enjoy news and pictures from 'The Fairholme Express' on page 8



Carol Service



For our recorded Christmas Carol Service this year, each Form practised two or three carols to be included with the traditional Christmas readings. Recorded over a number of days, all children took part, harps and guitarists joined forces and pupils delivered their readings beautifully. Thank you to Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Turner for their accompaniment skills.

Open Day

Form VII had great fun helping to prepare an online Open Day held in November. Pupils took 'virtual' visitors around the school, asking a range of questions to our teachers. They focussed on how children at Fairholme develop confidence, how they gain independent skills and thinking skills, how music and drama activities help confidence building and how sport and enrichment activities promote health and well-being. All pupils featured in this in-depth Fairholme project: some pupils were interviewed, some were filmed demonstrating their skills.

Thank you to all staff for allowing the cameras to invade lessons and to Form VII, who demonstrated not only their own confidence but also the pride and enjoyment they have in their school. We felt that the final video was a very accurate portrayal of any typical week at Fairholme, no fancy add-ons, gimmicks or editing, just our fantastic family school at its best!



Exam Successes

Some excellent results in entrance exams for Form VII are already coming in, including 100% success in the Wirral Grammar Schools 11+ exams, two academic Ruthin Scholarships and an academic/tennis scholarship for Ellesmere College. Well done everyone, keep working hard! Recent results are testament to your hard work throughout, both at school and during remote learning.



News



Lovelight

Participation in Lovelight concerts has become a key part of our Christmas celebrations at Fairholme, having taken part each year since 2014. Following the online performance last year, we were delighted to be invited back to the Cathedral this year for the live charity concert held in support of the Tenovus Cancer Care Charity which raises vital funds for cancer research, provides mobile cancer support units and the valued cancer support line.

Volunteers from Form IV upwards contributed to this event, singing carols and songs from The Polar Express, joining Tenovus Cancer Care's Sing with Us Choir and Rhos Orpheus Male voice choir.

This was an important milestone in our return to normal, following the pandemic, and a more poignant time than ever to remember and celebrate loved ones affected by cancer.

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day this year included the Christmas Spelling Bee and a delicious Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings.

Well done to our Spelling Bee winners — Parvathi, Ryan, Sangeeth, Ellis, Rupert and Alexa.



Mexican Day

Thank you to Newydd Catering and the excellent kitchen staff for organising our Special Mexican Lunch. Food was exquisite and dining room decorations very cheering. Everyone enjoyed the Mexican colouring as well!



Sports Slot

It has been a pleasure to welcome Mr. Roberts to the Fairholme family this term. Mr. Roberts has been running sports clubs and PE lessons for all classes since September. We continue to offer a wide variety of all-inclusive sports activities including hockey, tag rugby, football, netball, badminton, golf, circuit-training, benchball, gymnastics and yoga.



Music, Sport and Enrichment



Music Matters

Not only have musicians been working feverishly towards our four main Christmas events, but have also been working towards Music Theatre Examinations to be held on Thursday. Mrs. Williams has

been working tirelessly with pupils on projection and dramatic skills and pupils have had great fun preparing and trying on costumes ready for this event. Good luck, everyone!



The Environment in our Hands

Environmental Issues

Form III have been studying plants and animals in our environment. They have explored the school grounds, searching for local wildlife. Collectively, they found a ladybird, a spider, a snail, a crane fly, a robin, a worm and a frog, as well as various trees and other plants. Form V, meanwhile, have been learning all about the key area of climate change – global warming. Children considered what they can do at home and at school to reduce their carbon footprint and become more environmentally-

friendly; what Government ought to do, and what the world as a whole should put into action to prevent the impacts of Global Warming. Pupils produced some wonderful, informative posters persuading people to 'Reduce, Re use, Recycle'.



Remembrance Day

Remembrance is an important time of year at Fairholme when we learn about the sacrifice soldiers have made for our freedom, the hardship of war and the importance of peace.

This year, the pupils of Form VII led a Remembrance Assembly in recognition of all those who fought and died serving their country. During the assembly the pupils recited some well known war poems, including 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon and 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae, which served to highlight the tragedies of conflict.

Volunteer prefects represented the school and The Mount Day Nursery, taking wreaths to the Cenotaph at the short outdoor Remembrance Service with other members of the St. Asaph community. We will remember them.



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt down, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high;
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae (1872-1918)



Teamwork

Working together as a team at school is very important. We improve our teamwork skills throughout Fairholme through sports, science experiments, drama etc. Forms VI and VII explained the importance of teamwork in their assembly by telling the story of the parts of the body who one day decided to stop working together!



Bonfire Night

The Early Years have discussed and explored the reason why we celebrate Bonfire Night in their class assembly. They learnt to move and dance like fireworks using ribbons, and talked about the noises and patterns they see in the sky.



Form

Harvest

All classes came together to celebrate Harvest Festival, singing some of our favourite harvest songs and hymns. Form III demonstrated our harvest message of sharing with their harvest anagrams.

Our thanks go to you all for your generous harvest gifts for our display table. We held a 'Guess the number of tins' competition. Amelia made the closest estimate and won a Heinz Beans 'Safe Can' – perfect for hiding her pocket money and important treasures!



One Kind Word

Form V's Anti-bullying assembly raised awareness about bullying and how to deal with it. This year's theme was 'One Kind Word'. The children made suggestions about how to include everyone in their play and conversation with play-requests, kindness and compliments. Anti-bullying week commenced with 'Odd Socks Day' and Form V took part!



Learning Independence

At Fairholme, becoming an independent learner is a priority. Form VI and VII had great fun finding out about independent learning earlier this term by interviewing staff and pupils to find out why independent learning is so important.

Their findings suggested that independent learners remember learning for longer, have a better understanding and greater confidence, and can link and apply their learning more easily.

This assembly video remains the most watched Fairholme video, surpassing Shakespeare and Carol Service performances – perhaps an acknowledgement to the importance of the 4 R's on the road to Learning Independence!



How to be an Independent Learner



Rules

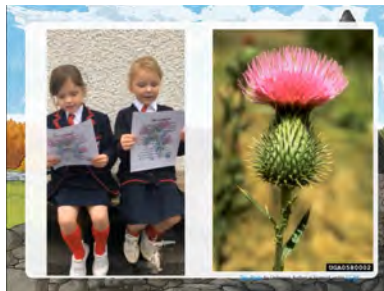
At the beginning of a new academic year, it is a good time to remind ourselves of our school rules. The children in Form II shared their ideas about rules, both at home and at school, and how important it is to follow rules. Form III assisted in our assembly by reading out the class rules they have written themselves. Links were made to The Ten Commandments in the Old Testament and Form VI and VII kindly performed the Ten Commandments song.



Assemblies

Advent

Amidst the excitement of reaching the month of December and thoughts turning to Christmas, the children of Form II presented an assembly all about Advent. They shared information about the Church season of Advent, lighting a candle each week in the lead up to Christmas and getting ready for the arrival of Jesus. The children each coloured in a candle from the Advent Wreath and created lovely Christingle pictures.



St. Andrew's Day

Form III led the St. Andrew's Day celebrations this year with an investigation into St. Andrew's life as a disciple of Jesus. Children researched ten interesting facts about Scotland, found out about tartan and gave some confident renditions of 'Tae a Thistle'.

Hallowe'en

Form IV have researched from where Halloween originated and discovered how Halloween is celebrated around the world.

Poetry was recited in small groups, as well as a class version of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. The children wore magnificent spooky costumes.



Keeping Healthy

Children in Form V have learned all about the five main food groups (fruit and veg, carbohydrates, fats, proteins and dairy) and nutrients, and why nutrition is important. They have learned to differentiate between foods to be eaten for a healthy lifestyle and foods that can be eaten as a treat on occasions.

Children also learned about the importance of exercise and how being active is part of staying healthy.



Christmas Craft

All classes have enjoyed the many Christmas craft activities towards the end of term. Victorian Christmas cards, 3-D pop-up cards, cards made with straws, cotton wool, glue and glitter . . .



Wire-Works

Form VI have spent many weeks working with wire. Firstly, they produced some excellent wire trees using beads, wire and pliers. Secondly, they adapted their skills to make model bicycles. Well done, all!

Craft, Design and Technology

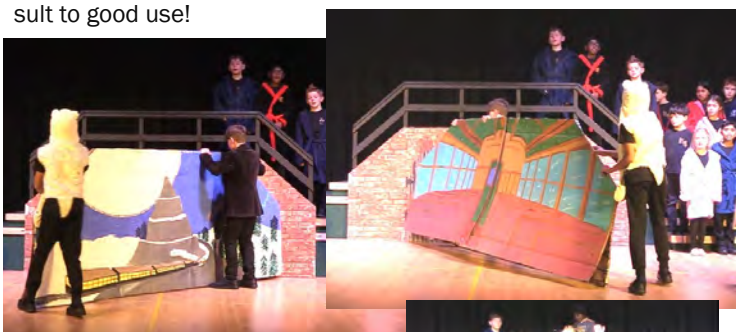
Sketching and Charcoals

Form II have enjoyed drawing with charcoal this term, producing very imaginative pictures while realising how messy charcoal can be! Form V, meanwhile, have been sketching themselves using mirrors.



Scene Shifting

Form VII have enjoyed painting scenery ready for the Polar Express; two scenes – inside and outside the train. Meanwhile, Form VI painted the train front. Using brushes, sponges, cotton wool and glitter, pupils enjoyed working as a team and putting the final result to good use!



Autumn Finds

The Early Years have been discovering all the changes that happen during the autumn. They have collected leaves, conkers, pinecones, acorns and twigs on their autumn walks. The children discussed words to describe their autumn finds, made some word leaves and created natural art and autumn wreaths.



Mathe-magicians

Form II have been working on their numeracy skills this term. They have been using a variety of resources to help them with their understanding. This has included paddle boards to record time and blocks for helping them understand tens and units. More recently, they have had lots of fun measuring an assortment of objects using a mixture of non-arbitrary units. Shoes have been taken off, and strides have been made, as well as lots of counting and recording! Measuring the table was the trickiest! The children have also been trying hard to complete weekly Mathletics tasks set. Certificates have been flying out of the printer throughout Early Years, Forms II and III!



Shape-Shifters

KG have been learning the names of 2-D shapes and creating shape pictures!

Magnetism

Form VI have carried out experiments to find what load a bar magnet can pull and how this varies on a variety of surfaces, rough and smooth.



Maths and Science

The River Elwy

Forms IV, V and VI explored the River Elwy as part of their studies on rivers. Luckily, the weather was fine, after the terrible storm the weekend before. The children walked along the beautiful riverbank and discovered the intricate wooden carvings of wildlife, identifying some features of the river they had learnt about in lessons.

The children carried out investigations to discover how fast the river flowed, using numeracy skills to measure, time and work out averages. They also observed the depth and width of the river in various locations along its course and observed where erosion had taken place on the banks of the River Elwy, caused by flooding and storms.



Dirty Water!

Form VII have been given the challenge to design a water filter to clean up 'dirty water'. They were provided with a variety of filtration materials, such as gravel, paper towels, sand and cotton wool and asked to consider which of the materials would be most suitable for filtering out large sediments, like leaves and twigs and which would be more suited to removing fine impurities.

Once they had decided how to layer their filtration materials, the children poured the 'dirty water' slowly into their filter and watched it seep through. They compared their results and decided which group had made the best filter. Finally, pupils talked about the fact that although the water looked visibly cleaner, it was not safe to drink as it would still contain micro-organisms.

Armless Fun!

Form V pupils have combined science with technology by designing and making a model of the human arm. In our Science topic, 'Growth and Movement', pupils learnt about the different muscles in the body, looking in detail at how the biceps and triceps muscles work together to relax and contract. Pupils have used their knowledge and understanding of muscles and the skeleton to design and build a model of the human arm with fantastic results!



Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 10 January – Friday 14 January	Form III upwards	Revision Week
Monday 17 January – Friday 21 January	Form III – VI	Exam Week
Monday 31 January – Friday 4 February	KG – Form VI Parents	Parents Zoom/phone/in-person meetings (to be arranged by teachers via Edmodo)

Christmas

All Aboard the Fairholme Express!

To promote the Christmas Spirit this year, we worked on an additional Christmas project in music and drama lessons with the Upper School. This fun project saw everyone boarding the magic train – The Fairholme Express!

Some fantastic music, dance and drama skills were discovered and developed throughout the cast. The project involved teamwork, singing, acting and painting skills; but most of all inspired Christmas cheer as the children wore their dressing gowns, dressed up as polar bears, penguins, elves, Santa and Mrs. Claus and chefs for the final recordings of the show!

Thanks to Mrs. Williams on piano and Miss Messham for her contributions to the dancing magic train!



Jnr. Claus' Visit

All the children were very excited when the Jnr. Claus team visited classes on the last day of term, with bells, elves and a sack of presents!

The team visited all the classes, finally finding their own gifts at the bottom of the sack!



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