



Fairholme Preparatory School

Fairholme Focus

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2009

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of Fairholme Focus, one of the ways we will be keeping you up-to-date with life at Fairholme, this term and over the coming months and years.

First of all, we would like to say a big thank you to the staff, parents and children for making us feel so welcome and helping us to settle into our new home and life here.

The children have been very friendly and patient with us while we learnt their names, often introducing themselves many times, just to make sure!



Harvest Festival

Thank you so much for all your generous harvest gifts. As you know, this year we extended the festival to the whole school and all the children participated wonderfully in our harvest assembly.

Your gifts were shared between 'Save the Family' and the 'Charles Thompson Mission'. 'Save the Family' is a charity in North Wales which provides accommodation for 24 homeless families, helping parents to learn new skills and apply for

work so that they can get back on their feet.

The 'Charles Thompson Mission' is based in Birkenhead and provides hot meals and cups of tea throughout the week for poor and homeless people. Our family has had a long association with the mission, and Pastor Rob Jeffs, who runs the centre, was delighted by our support.

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Record Sales at Book Fair!

Thanks to all of you for the tremendous response to the book fair this term. Such was the level of support that we achieved all-time record sales of £760, an 80% increase on the previous fair!

The increase in sales means that in addition to the normal commission, we receive a bonus of the whole amount of the increase and now have over £800 to spend with Scholastic on books for the school.

Special points of interest:

- Computer crazy? Find out our plans for IT at Fairholme on page 2.
- Speech and Drama examiner found 'all the children delightful'. Read more on page 2.
- Are you interested in after school clubs? Refer to page 3.
- Piano waiting list reduced to an all time low! See Music Matters.

Computer Crazy



Computer crazy?

One of our priorities at Fairholme is to expand access to ICT. We have been in consultation with BT over the last few weeks and are pleased to say that we have now reached agreement for installation of a state-of-the-art computing facility in the school.

This will include provision of 20 workstations in the school library running through a central server

connected to our broadband internet hub. There will be cabled connectivity in every classroom. The server will provide us with effective control over anything coming in or out of the system and efficient storage of data, accessible from all workstations.

The school hall will benefit from a large, high definition plasma screen. We are planning that the installation be completed

over the Christmas holiday period, so the system can be up and running for next term.

Use of computers can support the whole curriculum. We will be using the facility to enhance the children's skills in maths and English as well as preparing them for the extensive use of computers in secondary school life.



Playtime

Children need to "let off steam" during their break times, but it is important that they do this in a constructive manner.

We have started to introduce balls and hoops for the smaller children, and netballs and basketballs for the older ones to provide a focus for their exercise.

We hope soon to install a low level activity trail to provide more interest during the break periods.

We have recently registered with "Jump Rope for Life" who are associated with the British Heart Foundation and who have provided us with skipping ropes, now

being used both at break time and as part of the physical education programme.

Next year we will be holding a sponsored skipping event to raise money for children with heart problems.



L.A.M.D.A. News

Well done to all the children who took Speech and Drama exams last week.

Taking the exam so early in the school year is difficult as the syllabus has only just changed. Everyone worked very hard to learn their poems in time to meet Mrs. Challiner,

the examiner, on 21 October.

Speech and drama is a great way to build children's confidence and we were very pleased to be told by Mrs Challiner that all the children performed excellently, conversed beautifully about their poems and about

life in general and were extremely polite and, in Mrs. Challiner's own words, were "absolutely delightful."

We must await the marks and remarks which take a number of weeks to arrive, however, we are very hopeful for an excellent outcome!

"All the children were absolutely delightful ."

**Mrs. Challiner
(L.A.M.D.A.)**

School Minibus

Hopefully you have noticed that the school minibus has now been sign-written and is looking very smart. We are planning to take it on a few outings before Christmas, includ-

ing trips to Techniquet in Wrexham, lifts along to the cathedral for our younger students and a journey to Lyndon for football and netball matches in November.



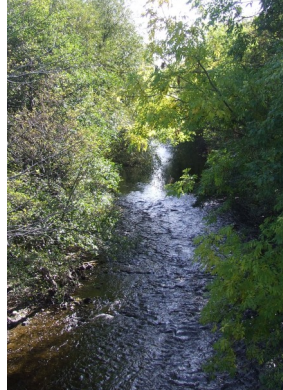
Trip to the River Elwy

As part of their geography studies, Form IV recently made a trip to the River Elwy.

Able led by Miss Deacon and supported by Mrs. Webber and Mr. Perkins, the children studied the river, noting that the level of the water was low due to the lack of rain.

They then carried out experiments to measure the speed of the river flow.

The children enjoyed a brief visit to the riverside playground before returning to school.



After School Club

We would be interested to know if there is a demand for after school care at Fairholme. We would envisage providing a supervised homework time together with a range of

after school activities between 4 and 6pm. These would possibly include craft, computers, music band, Scottish dancing, drama etc. Activities would be suitable for any

age, boy or girl.

We have included a separate questionnaire, please return this to us with your comments.

School Website

Following transfer of the website domain, we are in the process of re-hosting the school website so that it can more easily be updated and used as an

information source, not only for prospective parents but also for existing parents and children. When our computer system is operational, we will

be able to host the website on our own server, making Fairholme a part of the world wide web.

Music Matters

We are very lucky at Fairholme to have two extremely able and dedicated music teachers.

Mrs. Hennie is working hard with all the older children in preparation for our Carol Service at the cathedral at the end of term. Mrs. Williams works tirelessly with many of the children, providing expert piano and singing tuition.

We have recently been striving to reduce the waiting list for piano and singing lessons with Mrs. Williams. We are now offering lessons 4 days a week and there are very few children left on the waiting list. If you think you have been overlooked in the transfer, please see Mrs. Perkins!

Finding a room to hold

piano lessons has been a constraint with all the competing activities in school. In the longer term, we aim to provide a newly constructed music area. In the meantime, we are using the nearest room upstairs, complete with a brilliant, white electronic piano, to provide Mrs. Williams with a dedicated space when other rooms are in use.



Our cool, new piano

Are you interested in after-school clubs? Please fill in the questionnaire.

Some important dates for your diary

| Date | Forms | Event |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Tuesday 17 November 2pm– 4pm | Form VII (with a few of Form VI) | Netball/ Football Match v. Lyndon |
| Friday 20 November | ALL | Children in Need Non-Uniform Day Wear your own clothes to school in exchange for £1 donation |
| Thursday 26 November 2.30 pm | Forms KG, I, II and III Parents welcome | Nativity Play at Oriel House Hotel (Please drop KG, I, II & III children at Oriel House at usual morning school time instead of Fairholme for a rehearsal) |
| Tuesday 1 December 10am–1pm | Form II | Trip to Techniquest, Wrexham |
| Wednesday 2 December 10am–1pm | Form I and III | Trip to Techniquest, Wrexham |
| Thursday 10 December afternoon | ALL except KG | Rehearsal for Carol Service (Please collect children from the Cathedral at their usual finishing time) |
| Friday 11 December 2.30 pm | ALL except KG Parents welcome | Carol Service at St. Asaph Cathedral (Please collect children from the Cathedral after the Service) |
| Tuesday 15 December Afternoon | ALL | Coverdale Puppet Show in School Hall |

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