



# Fairholme Focus

Volume 1 Issue 2

December 2009

## It's Christmas!

It's been a busy half-term at Fairholme. Hopefully we can give you a flavour of what has been happening in this newsletter. We hope you like the notice boards in the courtyard. Keep an

eye on these for notice of events and pictures. There are also some new boards in the hall for the children to display their work. Please come in and have a look, you are very welcome!

Finally we would like to wish all of you a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and a very happy New Year. We think 2010 will be an exciting year for Fairholme!



## Christmas Carol Service

The carol service in the Cathedral was one of the highlights of the term. The children played and sang beautifully and were very well supported by parents. It was especially nice to see our guests, including Mr and Mrs Cashman and the Heads of Rydal Penrhos and Howell's schools. Our special thanks to the Lord Mayor of St Asaph, Cllr Mrs Powell, who took time off from her busy schedule to join us, with her husband, for the afternoon. The DVD of this event will be available by the end of term. Please order your copies as soon as possible.



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## Music Matters

We are hoping that some children were inspired by the flute and clarinet playing at the Cathedral. We are keen to offer individual flute or clarinet lessons with Mrs Hennie. Don't think that you have to be able to play already! We can provide school instruments to start learning on if this would encourage people to have a go. It would

be nice to think that by next year we might be listening to the Fairholme Woodwind Band at the Cathedral!

Next term we are also starting a guitar group, to be run during the school day and we can provide some school acoustic guitars.

We are also making the senior recorder group into a proper half hour group les-

son, with a small charge. If you are a keen recorder player, please stick with us! Up to now, Mrs. Hennie has been running the group voluntarily. The beginner recorder group will continue with free lessons for anyone who wishes to learn.

Please register for any or all of these lessons on the enclosed form.

### Special points of interest:

- Operation Christmas Child, thanks for your support, read more on page 2.
- Flute or Clarinet lessons now available! See Music Matters.
- Register now for after school clubs! See page 3.
- Still Computer Crazy? Check out the computer update, page 4.

## Operation Christmas Child



The request for shoeboxes filled with presents for children around the world resulted in us collecting more than 60 boxes to pass on to the Samaritan's Purse appeal. It's both fun and exciting for our children to put together their personalized gift boxes in the knowledge that they will make a real difference to the children receiving them.



## Nativity Play

It was a real joy to see and be part of our first nativity play at Fairholme. The narration, music, singing, speaking and acting were all superb. It is great to see the children all becoming so confident at such an early age, well done to all the children. Congratulations to Miss Winston and the other staff involved for producing such a polished performance! I hope that you have all ordered and received the DVD, but if you haven't, let me know and we will order more copies.

Watch this space for more drama opportunities for all ages next term.



## Football and Netball Matches

For the inaugural trip for our school minibus, we took Form 7 football and netball teams for a match at Lyndon. Both teams put up a spirited performance against strong opposition.

The boys team, comprising the whole of form 7, played on the Astroturf pitch in torrential rain. They were eventually beaten 6-4 after a courageous comeback in the second half. The girls from Form 7, with Form 6 making up the team, raced to a 4-2 lead at half time

but were narrowly overtaken in the second half when a number of very strong substitutes were brought on!

Both matches were played with tremendous sporting spirit and were enjoyed by all. Afterwards the children enjoyed sandwiches cakes and drinks in the school cafeteria.

In addition to the fun of taking part, the event certainly helped to strengthen the developing friendship between our schools.



## L.A.M.D.A. News

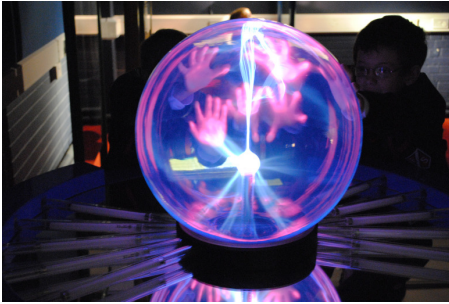
What can we say! The results of the LAMDA exam last month were excellent, with everyone gaining either a merit or

distinction, three children all scoring an extremely high 91%. This is even more remarkable given that the children

were taking the exam so early in the school year and had to cope with a change of syllabus. Well done everyone!

We had two enjoyable and instructive days at Techniquest, Wrexham, first with Form 2 and then Forms 1 and 3. The children enjoyed exploring the many hands-on scientific exhibits and after some experimentation, managed to crack the locked gate and pirate treasure chest challenges.

Both groups also attended the "Prince Boris" production in the Techniquest theatre, where they were in good voice calling for "The Apprentice" (ask your children about this!) and assisting in the production of the special effects.



## After School Club

We will be starting after school clubs after Christmas at Fairholme. We are pleased to report that we had a tremendously positive response to our questionnaire, therefore this issue we are including forms to fill in for registration for these clubs. They will run between 3.30pm and 6pm. We will be providing a snack at around 4pm followed by a time for homework. Supervised informal play will then continue until everyone has completed

their homework and special activities are anticipated to start around 4.45 to 5pm. There will be a particular club or clubs then provided each day until 6pm. We would prefer that pick up times are therefore one of either 4pm, 5pm or 6pm as otherwise it is difficult to know who can be included in team activities.

**Are you interested in after-school clubs? Please fill in the registration form.**

## We Will Remember Them

On the lead up to remembrance day, our daily assemblies focused on the period of the first and second world wars, both in an historical sense and also from the perspective of their impact on the everyday lives of people. We watched short video clips provided by the British Legion, listened to the work of some of the famous war poets and sang songs from both the world wars.

The remembrance activities culminated in children and staff observing a one minute silence in the playground at 11am on 11th November.



## Book and Teddy Sale

Thanks for all your kind support at the book and teddy sale. The children were very excited, rooting through all the old books and, I think, may have found some hidden treasures!

Of course the teddies were almost of more interest than the books and were snapped up almost at once, not just by the younger children! I'm sorry if they all brought home too much junk!

We raised £113 which we have immediately put towards some expensive software called 2simple, which is very useful in the backup of the maths, English and music curricula and can be used by all age groups.



## Children in Need

Non-uniform day was great fun and also raised £250 for us to send off to children in need. It was fascinating to see the children in their own clothes, showing their individual personalities. Nice also, of course, to see them back in the school uniform again the next day!

## Stay Bright at Night!

Many of the children have recently entered the Road Safety Competition, part of the Junior Road Safety Officers Scheme, in Wales. The children had to design a Christmas card to deliver the 'Stay Bright at Night' message. We sent off some excellent entries, but just in case we don't win, our Junior Road safety officers (Katie and Ananda) picked their favourite for the Fairholme prize. Luisa was chosen as the winner and here is her design with other contenders . . .



## Computer Update

You may have noticed some destructive work going on in the library. Don't panic! We hope that by the time you all return from your Christmas break the new computer facility will be in place. We have already begun the installation of the electricity supply.

The week after the end of term will see the floor restored to its original finish and the computer cabling and furniture installed.

Next term we will really have a state of the art IT facility.

## St. Andrew's Day

The 'early birds' to school on the 30 November suddenly found themselves embroiled in a Scottish Country Dancing lesson for a performance to the school almost immediately!

We had great fun performing 'The Dashing White Sergeant', dressing up in various tartans and also learning a little about St. Andrew.

Watch out! Burn's Night is coming up shortly!



## Christmas Lunch

Special thanks to Mrs. Sanders and the kitchen staff for producing the most splendid Christmas Lunch. Plates were definitely scraped clean on this occasion. The usual Christmas Fayre was topped off with a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree Cake. After lunch we were entertained by the very popular singing and dancing Santa!



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