



Fairholme Focus

Volume 1, Issue 3

February 2010

Happy New Year!

Despite the dreadful weather at the start of term, it was business as usual at Fairholme.

It is pleasing to report that a number of initiatives, planned during last term, have now come to

fruition. As reported elsewhere in this issue, the ICT-Library Suite is now fully operational, we have appointed a sports coach, after school clubs are thriving and musicians have never been so busy.

We are continuing to plan for further investment in Fairholme and are currently looking at options to improve classroom, sports and toilet facilities.

Watch this space for further news . . .

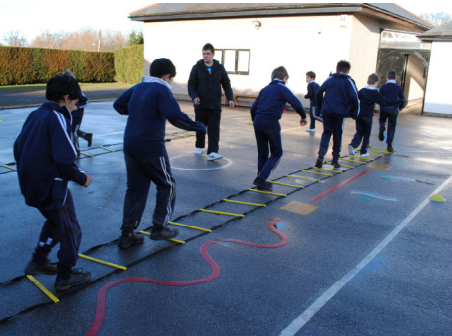


Step-up in Sport

One of our first aims this term was to improve the sport, especially for the boys. The all too often cries of 'Penalty' and 'Ref' on the football pitch seemed to indicate more TV watching than sports training! We are very pleased therefore to introduce Mr. Lewis, who is putting the older boys through their paces both on the football pitch and in other sports training. They have been using our speed ladders and developing ball skills playing hoop ball.

The girls have been continuing their netball training and boys and girls are enjoying circuit training and skipping in readiness for our 'Skipathon' to support the British Heart Foundation to be held on Friday 12 March.

The half-term Sports Camp, for boys and girls, to be run by Mr. Lewis from Mon 15 - Thurs 18 February, will include tri-golf, tag rugby, athletics and football. Any last minute applicants, please ring the school !



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Whether the Weather?

The weather has been atrocious for most of this half term!



Well done for struggling in to school during the snow. It's easy for us as we're here already!

The snow did give us a good chance to make excellent use of the computers and the big screen in the Hall, where we tried to show some educational films during all the wet break times.



Special points of interest:

- Alice Alert! Anyone interested in helping with costumes? Read more on page 2.
- Any last minute takers for our Half-term Sports Camp? Read more in Step-up in Sport.
- Are you interested in after school clubs? Refer to page 3.
- Rush on woodwind! See Music Matters, page 3.

Alice Alert



It has been an extremely exciting half term for budding young actors as we have begun rehearsals for our Easter Production – Alice the Musical.

disappointed if they have not been cast as their favourite character. Everyone, whatever age, will be included and it will still be fun to practise, even when the main characters are fixed. Well done everyone for trying so hard in our recent auditions.

break. We will not be using scripts after half term!

Some of the costumes we have already in school. We will provide a list of specific requirements for each child as soon as possible. If any parent has any special costume making skills and would like to get involved or has costumes available, please let us know.

Please make sure your scripts are fully learned during the half-term

Everyone has been extremely enthusiastic, trying out all sorts of different roles. We have been amazed by the talents of so many of the children and we very much hope that nobody will be too



UNICEF Day for Change

Last week we supported the charity UNICEF in its Day for Change. The children came to school in their own clothes. In our Friday assembly we learned a little about the work of UNICEF and about

the country they are supporting this year, Mozambique. Many children brought cakes which Form VII pupils sold to the others during break times.

Thank you so much for your support of this event. We raised £ 204.16 which we will split between UNICEF's work in Mozambique and their Haiti Earthquake emergency appeal.



After School Clubs

After School Clubs are now up and running. Each day the children congregate in the ICT/Library and spend a short time using the computers or reading. We then provide a snack in the craft room followed by a supervised homework time. When everyone has completed homework, we start the day's activity. At the moment activities usually run as follows:

Monday – Table Tennis

Tuesday – Band

Wednesday – Craft

Thursday – Scottish dancing

These activities are sometimes moved about depending on numbers. We have also had drama activities some days which have largely centered around Alice in Wonderland! At the moment, we have no takers for Friday club.

If you are interested in joining the after-school clubs, please let us know. If you wish to take part in the activities, you should stay until at least 5.30pm, otherwise most of the time is taken up with homework and eating!

Clubs come highly recommended, sometimes children don't seem to want to leave!



Welcome to Rafael, Alex and Padmini who started in Kindergarten this term!



Exams in School

Well done to everyone in School who took exams with us last week. We know you were all working very hard and the staff have been very pleased with the outcome.

idea so that it does not come as such a shock in Form VII when the children have to take secondary school entrance exams. It also gives us a clear idea of strengths of each child and which areas of the curriculum need more work.

Getting used to exams at an early age is a good

Burns Night, 25 January, fell on the first day of our exam week, so we postponed the celebration until the Friday. All the children joined together for a special assembly where we recited and sang some of Robert Burns' poetry, piped in the haggis and performed some Scottish dances.



Music Matters

We have been amazed by the response to our suggestion of guitar and woodwind lessons. We now have 21 guitar players taking group lessons on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays, 4 clarinet players, 4 flute and 6 saxophone players taking lessons on either Tuesdays or Thursdays. It is very nice to see that they

are not wasting your money and are constantly asking if they can have extra practice in their free time! A few informal bands seem to be forming as well! Of course we could use some of this talent in our after school club band when we also do some drumming and use electric guitars!



Form VII Awards

We are delighted to let you know that excellent results are streaming in for Form VII's applications to secondary schools. As we write this newsletter,

the children have been awarded 7 scholarships at Rydal Penrhos, 5 places at St. Brigid's and no doubt many more offers to come.

The results from Kings and Queens are expected this week and Wirral grammar schools on 1 March.

Computer Crazy!

We are absolutely loving the new computer and library facility. Don't think that the children are just playing! We have bought a large amount of educational software that helps to reinforce the maths and English curricula. So as well as having fun, the children are always learning, sometimes without realizing!

The older children are developing their computer

skills using databases and spreadsheets, drawing graphs and using and making decision trees.

Lunchtime clubs also often involve the computers when the children are learning keyboard skills which will be a great benefit to them in their future lives. We are also teaching chess using the ICT suite and there is plenty of time just to sit in the library and read the many

books we have provided suitable for all age groups.

For those interested in the technicalities, an HP Xeon server linked to the internet drives the network and stores all the children's work files. We have 18 pc's, monochrome and colour laser printers and an interactive whiteboard in our ICT suite; access points in each classroom and a plasma screen in the School Hall.



Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Wednesday 24 February	ALL	Cartoon Art Workshop Visiting artist Mr Paul Wilcox working with all forms to develop sketching skills
Tuesday 2 March – Thursday 4 March	ALL	World Maths Day Online interactive maths exercises with children from all over the world
Thursday 4 March, Friday 5 March 3.30 pm	Parents welcome	World Book Day – Book Fair in School Hall
Friday 12 March	ALL	Sponsored ‘Skipathon’ to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.
Monday 15 March 3.30 pm (To be con- firmed)	Parents welcome	Uniform Sale by School and Leisure in School Hall
Tuesday 23 March	ALL	Alice the Musical Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 24 March 1.30 pm	ALL Parents, relatives and friends welcome	School Production Alice the Musical in Marquee, School Grounds
Thursday 25 March 1.30 pm	ALL Parents, relatives and friends welcome	School Production Alice the Musical in Marquee, School Grounds

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