



Fairholme Focus

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Dramatic Times!

As we go to press, there is a buzz of excitement around Fairholme as we make our final preparations for the Alice production. This will mark the end of a very busy and productive half term. We were delighted with the excellent entrance examination results achieved by Form VII

this year and all the children have continued to work extremely hard throughout the term. Mathematics has been very high priority, enhanced by our participation in World Maths Day. Sports events have included a number of netball and football matches

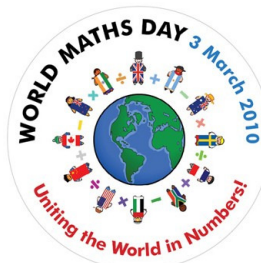
as well as our charity 'Skipathon' held last week. Artistic skills have not been overlooked; the cartoon workshop held back in February proved very popular and since then the older children have been designing Alice t-shirts and programmes.



World Maths Day

World Maths Day was certainly one of this term's highlights. It is an online mathematics competition for children of all ages, designed to improve mental maths skills. 56,082 schools took part this year from 235 countries world wide. Our new ICT facility came into its own as 26 computers went into action, almost continuously, during the two-day competition. As well as improving maths skills, it was exciting for the children to see which countries children came from in each game they played.

Between them, Fairholme children managed to answer a massive 154,592 questions correctly; the gold certificate winners, shown here, worked extremely hard, together making 45,898 correct answers with a top score of 15,496! If you would like more practice on world maths, you can still play online. Just sign in, click on 'play now' and select a level. Next year the competition will be even bigger, with World Maths Day becoming part of the World Education Games. Everyone is invited to unite the world in learning!



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St. David's Day

The whole school joined together for their usual St. David's Day assembly on 1st March. Daffodils were much in evidence as the children learned a little about the life of St. David and sang and listened to Welsh hymns and music.



Special points of interest:

- World Maths Day. Fairholme joins online maths game, stay on this page.
- Fairholme sporting fixtures. How did we do? See pg 2.
- Form I nature walk! See page 3.
- Half Term Sports Camp. Read how it went, page 4.

Skipathon



The skipathon, our sponsored charity event, organized by Miss Deacon, was very successful. Thank you for all your kind support in this venture. The amount collected by the children in

sponsorship totalled £1,426. 80% of this has been sent to the British Heart Foundation. The school is allowed to keep 20% of the total which will be used for sports equipment for the summer term at Fairholme.

Alice Adventures

Preparing for our Alice Production has been enormous fun. The children have been so enthusiastic and hard working, we have been astounded by the huge dramatic talents that have been hiding under the surface until now. It is not just for fun, however, that we are promoting drama at Fairholme. Preparing for Alice has given each class the opportunity to read a version of 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' together. More reading aloud develops the children's confidence in reading and in turn benefits comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills. Class reading has moved on to include other texts selected for each class and is now a well established part of the school day.



Performing in the School production is ideal to develop the children's confidence. It has also been a great way to promote team work. The children have been working together, not just within their age group, but cooperating with and getting to know children from different classes as well. Of course we hope that the production was also great entertainment for the parents. We know that some of the children are drama enthusiasts as we have had over twenty applicants for the Easter Drama Workshop which we are now very much looking forward to!



Kindergarten on Safari!



Kindergarten have been enjoying a new Role Play this half term and with the help of Miss Pett have travelled to the jungle. It looks great fun and many of the older children wished they could go too!

Kindergarten also welcome Louis as their newest recruit.



Sports Matches

The boys were victorious in their football match last week against The Firs in Chester. Well done lads! They won 3-2.

The girls played netball at Howell's and despite their triumphant pose, they were unfortunately

defeated in their final match of the season, as were the boys in their second match against Abbeygate. However, looking on the bright side, we all had a good time and it's a great experience representing Fairholme, irrespective of the result!

Form I have been enjoying the fine spring weather and were seen exploring the school grounds, admiring the flowers and plants.



St. Patrick's Day

The whole school joined together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day last week. We listened to Irish music, poetry and sung Irish hymns and songs. Some leprechauns performed a dance!



**Any more takers
for the Easter
Drama
Workshop?
Register Now!**

Chinese New Year

Just before half-term we celebrated Chinese New Year in one of our whole school assemblies. This year is the year of the Tiger and a few of Form II dressed as tigers and related animals. The children learned a little about the Chinese traditions and customs at Chinese New Year and some early birds joined together for a Dragon Dance. Some volunteers then tried to use chop sticks.



Multi-Use Games Area

When we break up for Easter, work will start on converting the existing football pitch to an all weather, multi-use games area. This will be invaluable next term for tennis, rounders, quick cricket and athletics and in the winter for

football and netball. It will provide great opportunities also for after-school club and holiday camp activities. The area will be used by boys and girls, giving the girls a much better area for their netball games and the boys a greatly

improved pitch for football to replace the slippery mud patch which developed earlier this term. Anyone using the pitch will need trainers which should be white with navy trim with a velcro fastening.



Form VII Awards

Form VII performed extremely well in their secondary school entrance exams. We are pleased to report that between them they have been offered 5 places to King's, 2 places to Queen's, 7 scholarships to Rydal, and 4 places to St. Brigid's. Three also obtained passes for the grammar schools on the Wirral. Well done everyone for all your hard work.

Cartoon Workshop

At the start of this half term, we held a cartoon workshop led by local artist, Paul Wilcox. In our assemblies he demonstrated how to draw some of the characters from Alice in Wonderland at speed. He then toured the classrooms during the day and spent a short time with each class, helping each child to develop pictures of their own and help with his large demonstration pictures. The children and staff enjoyed the day very much and we were left with a splendid collection of his work as well as some excellent efforts from the children which can be seen on display at various points around the school.



Hindu Festival of Holi

One of our multi-cultural assemblies this term looked at the Hindu festival of Holi. The children learned a little about some of the Hindu gods and acted out the story of Prahlada and the wicked Holika.



Half-Term Sports Camp

Mr. Lewis ran a fantastic sports camp over the half-term holiday. Over the 4 days, around 25 children attended and very much enjoyed all the physical activity involved in tag rugby, football, hurdling, javelin and kwik-cricket. Although the weather was a little cold and wet, the week proved to be great fun and certificates were awarded for all participants. We look forward to the next sports course run by Mr. Lewis on our new sports surface.



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World Book Day

On World Book Day, some of the children came to assembly to recommend their favourite book to the other children. All sorts of books were presented, some modern, some traditional. The children all spoke knowledgeably and with confidence. We hope that the listeners were encouraged to read some of the books recommended, especially as many of them are available in our new library facility.

World Book Day also saw the start of our School Book Fair. Thank you all for supporting this event. The school now will receive £360 commission to be spent on further books for the library.