



# Fairholme Focus

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## Friends Together

Another hectic term draws to a close, the highlight of which was undoubtedly watching the children working so well together in our performances of 'Wind in the Willows. Other events this term have included

the Art Exhibition, World Maths Day, Ballet and Music examinations, Book Fair and Sports' matches as well as special assemblies covering St. David, St. Patrick, the Hindu Festival of Holi and a series of House Assemblies.

The Easter break promises to be an eventful one with the commencement of our building works and we can now look forward to the Summer Term with many more outdoor sports and activities.



## Art Exhibition

The children were all excited to see their artwork displayed in a real art exhibition this half term. All the classes had completed artwork centred around the 'Wind in the Willows' and the displays in the hall looked fantastic. Everyone was able to

purchase their framed picture and no doubt many are now proudly on show at home. Form VII's pictures were transferred on to mugs and these were on sale after our play performances. If you would still like to purchase a mug, please see Mrs. Perkins.

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## St. David's Day

St. David's Day was celebrated in a whole School assembly at which the children learned about St. David's life and welsh traditions and customs. The children all made a daffodil to wear for the occasion.



### Special points of interest:

- Check out our new development plans in "Building Works" on page 4
- Latest match news, see "Sports' Slot" on page 3



## More Messing About In Boats



Preparing for our 'Wind in the Willows' production has been enormous fun. The children have been so enthusiastic and hard working, we have again been astounded by the huge dramatic talents emerging. It has not just been musical and acting skills required this year as artistic talents have been used as well in production of scenery and props.

Preparing for the play has also given each class the opportunity to read a version of 'Wind in the Willows' together, developing

the children's confidence in reading and in turn benefiting comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills. Those who have managed the full, unabridged version will have noticed some very difficult language! Form VII, having read this book last year, embarked upon a modern sequel, 'Willows in Winter', which has also been great fun.

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.

I hope that you agree that the children's efforts were not in vain. The performances were tremendous, great fun, if a little nerve-racking at times, and much enjoyed by families, friends, neighbours and dignitaries. Well done everyone!



## Open for Business

Our second Fairholme Open Day was a chance for visitors and parents to come to see the school on a normal working day. There was a tremendous response and our Form VII prefects were kept busy providing guided tours around school. They performed this task admirably

and many visitors commented on their knowledge, politeness and enthusiasm. They were excellent ambassadors for the School. We were particularly pleased to see a number of current parents taking the opportunity to look around and see what is in store for their children at Fairholme in years to come.



## Fairytale Fun

The children in Form II have been studying fairy tales this term. They have enjoyed reading a large variety of stories and have discovered just what makes a fairytale. The children have worked hard to study the char-

acters, discuss the plot and retell the stories in their own words. To celebrate their hard work, they cut out masks of the characters from 'The Three Little Pigs' and ventured out into the sun for some role-play fun!



## Good versus Evil!

One of our multi-cultural assemblies this half-term looked at the Hindu Festival of Holi. We learned about Hindu celebrations at this time and acted out the story of Prince Prahlada and the wicked Holika, a story which demonstrated that the forces of Good are always stronger than the forces of Evil.



## Three In One

St. Patrick's Day offered the children a chance to learn about the Trinity, the three parts of God, and about how St. Patrick explained this using the analogy of a shamrock, having three parts, but just one stem. We tried to think of all the other words which start with 'tri' meaning three as well. See how many you can still remember.



## Music Matters

This half term has been a busy time for our musicians who have not only been rehearsing musical interludes for our play but also preparing for piano, singing and woodwind exams. It is always good to hear the children practising and we eagerly await the results of these. The sunny weather has also tempted some of our group music lessons outdoors as junior recorder and guitar groups delighted other children at play with renditions of 'Moon River' and 'Little Bo Peep'!

## On Their Toes

Some of our ballet classes have been preparing for exams this term which took place last week at North Wales School of Dance. Everyone danced well and Miss Mesham was very pleased.

Forms IV to VII now need to think about LAMDA exams coming up in May. Please ensure that both poems (Forms IV & V) or poem and prose (Forms VI & VII) are learned by next term. Exams are soon upon us!



## Sports' Slot

Our Form VII boys took part in a football tournament last week at Abbeygate college alongside eleven other school teams. Thanks to some excellent team training with Mr. Wynne over the last two terms, vast improvement in the boys' ball skills, teamwork and tactics was clearly evident. The team progressed to the final of the Plate Competition, where they were narrowly beaten by the Firs. Most importantly, the boys had a great time!



## The Finest House on the Riverbank

Form VII have been leading Wednesday morning assemblies this half term. In their House groups, they have researched the House names and produced very entertaining assemblies using ambitious, all-singing, all-dancing 'Powerpoint' presentations.

All the children have learned much about Robert Falcon Scott, Sir Francis Drake, Henry Morton Stanley and Sir Walter Raleigh and developed some House camaraderie and rivalry singing our House hymn, 'Hills of the North Rejoice'.

## Changing Seasons

The children of Form I have been finding out about the changing seasons. There have been lots of activities including three springtime walks within the school grounds. They also made wind carps to measure the wind strength. The children tested them outside, with the help of Kindergarten, and had great fun!





## Building Works

Another significant step in our development programme for Fairholme will be taken over the Easter break, with the commencement of our construction and renovation works. This includes construction of four classrooms, extension of Form II to provide a dining and craft facility and creation of a new girls' toilet and washroom. The classrooms will be completed by September, while the toilets will be ready by next term.

Forms I and Kindergarten will be moved temporarily for next term prior to being rehoused in the new accommodation.

We are delighted that the works are being carried out in partnership with firms closely connected with the school, Anwyl Construction, John Williams Home Improvements, Harrison Jones Bathrooms and Parry Davies Architects.

Following on from our developments of ICT/library suite and sports pitch, along with the boys' toilet improvements, the new works will significantly enhance the quality of our facilities at Fairholme.

## 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. 1,298,834 students and 22,785 schools from 212 countries took part this year.

As well as improving maths skills, it was exciting for the children to see which countries children came from in each game they played.

Many of our pupils won the Platinum Certificate, awarded for playing 60 games or more and some

remarkably high scores were achieved in each class.

Each child is registered for 'mathletics', our web-based maths software, which enables everyone to practise their maths skills either at school or at home. Children can work through the entire maths curriculum for their year group and we are checking who is doing this!



## Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Thursday 19 May	Visitors and parents welcome	Visitors' Open Day
Wednesday 25 May, Thursday 26 May	Forms IV – VII	LAMDA Speech & Drama Exams (2 poems IV, V or poem & prose VI, VII should be learned by start of term)
Friday 24 June, 1.30pm (Reserve Day – Monday, 27 June)	ALL Parents welcome	Sports' Day (Children are required to stay for award ceremony)
Thursday 7 July 2.30 pm	ALL Parents welcome	End of Year Service St. Asaph Cathedral
Friday 9 December 2.30 pm	ALL Parents welcome	Christmas Carol Service St. Asaph Cathedral



**Fairholme Preparatory School**  
**Mount Road**  
**St. Asaph**  
**Denbighshire LL17 0DH**

Phone: 01745 583 505  
 Fax: 01745 584 332  
 E-mail: [admin@fairholmeschool.com](mailto:admin@fairholmeschool.com)  
[www.fairholmeschool.com](http://www.fairholmeschool.com)

