



Fairholme Focus

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Happy Christmas

The run up to Christmas has been, as always, a busy but enjoyable few weeks. Against the backdrop of our emerging new classroom facilities, we have enjoyed numerous important events including Remembrance Day, Football Tournament, Nativity Play, Cathedral Carol Service, 'Party in the

Street' and our own Christmas Party and Puppet Show.

Class work has continued apace. Form VII have been preparing hard for their entrance exams, some completed and others forthcoming in January.

To enhance parent and

pupil voice, we have undertaken a survey for all parents and children, to give us valuable feedback and help us further improve standards at Fairholme to attain sector leading practice.

We hope that you all have a restful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all in 2012.



It's a Party!

The addition of a little humour and a different angle on the traditional nativity story went down well this year with parents, grandparents and friends who attended an excellent production of "It's a Party! Joseph (Bentley) falling over on hearing the news from Mary (Alice) is something that will be remembered for a long time and re-watched on the DVD! The children gave a confident and accomplished performance and clearly enjoyed themselves in the process. Many of the older children felt a little nostalgic as they watched the little ones set off for Oriel house, with cries of "good luck" and "wish we could come!" They were rewarded with a re-run of the play at the school on the following Friday.



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Sports Slot

Opportunities for sport at Fairholme have never been better. Our succession of dedicated sports coaches have, over the last 2 years, developed a varied curriculum for all age groups. The seasonal core sports are supplemented with a range of alternative sports activities both in lessons and as part of the lunchtime enrichment programme

to ensure something for everyone.

Development of football skills at Fairholme was amply demonstrated in the tournament at Abbeygate College this month involving 9 schools from Cheshire and North Wales. On a bitterly cold day, the boys played 6 matches, winning 5 and only losing 1! It was a

real team effort, with the defence conceding just 2 goals and the attack scoring an incredible 15. Mr Rees and Mr Perkins were proud of every one of them!



Special points of interest:

- Winter Drama Workshop – come and join the fun, sign up now
- Drama News – read Tempestuous Times on page 2
- Football Team success – see Sports Slot
- Amateur Radio opportunity – see Page 3.

Tempestuous Times



Life at Fairholme is full of drama opportunities. This enhances the children's confidence and provides a means of demonstrating cooperation and teamwork.

Forms IV to VII enjoy speech and drama lessons every week and many of the older pupils are preparing for LAMDA acting exams this year while others prepare for verse and prose exams.

Drama enrichment club is also thriving at school. Under the

guidance of Miss Pett, members of drama club take part in a variety of sketches which are performed in assembly at the end of each half term.

This half term, drama club have been practising the play 'A Christmas Crisis'. The play is about different passengers going on a journey on Christmas Eve, but when the bus breaks down the passengers have to change their attitudes if they are to get it going again. The pupils from

Form III up to Form VII enjoyed acting the play out during assembly with a fine performance from Bobo as the bus driver and Joseph as a drunkard!

We are now very much looking forward to our next whole school production – The Tempest. This will be a musical production involving the whole school. If anyone would like to demonstrate their talents prior to auditions, why not sign up for our drama workshop starting this week, it's not too late!

Grand Designs

During this half term Form I have been looking at their families. As part of this topic they had the opportunity to design and make a safe garden.

In pairs they designed their garden, making decisions as to what features to include. Some children decided on having flowers,

trees, slides and tree houses. They then had to decide which materials they were going to use to make the different features and added this to their designs.

They then worked together following their designs to create their gardens and added features such as fences around ponds to make their gardens safe.



Live Wires in Form IV

This term Form IV has been learning about 'Electricity.' We began by discussing the safety issues associated with electricity before investigating circuits, using the science equipment. The children made their own switches and tested them. We then set

about our 'Design and Make' task.

The 'Lions' designed lanterns while 'Tigers' embarked on plans for lighthouses. The pupils were extremely pleased with the finished products. I'm sure you'll agree they did a splendid job with lanterns ready just in time for Christmas!



Christmas Lunch

A marvellous Christmas lunch of roast turkey and all the trimmings was prepared by Mrs. Sanders and the kitchen staff and enjoyed

immensely by all. As last year, the Dancing Santa was the star of the show. Thank you to Mrs. Sanders for all her hard work!



Operation Christmas Child

Congratulations to everyone who provided Christmas shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child appeal. We managed to collect 55 boxes which set off from St. Asaph on 11 November.

This year it is possible to track the boxes which were paid for online, so we will be able to report on the destination of a few of the boxes next term.

All the children performed extremely well at this year's Carol Service at St. Asaph Cathedral on Friday. The service was much enjoyed by families, friends and dignitaries. Thanks to Mrs. Henne for all her hard work this term.

Following the Cathedral Service, many of the children joined the community in the St. Asaph 'Party in the Street'. Braving the cold, the children sang more carols and the wind band performed 'Wonderful Christmas Time'



Amateur Radio

After the Christmas break this year we are happy to announce the introduction of a course of amateur radio experience sessions, this will form part of the after school club on a Friday and will be run by an amateur radio enthusiast. The sessions will introduce the participants to radio and how it works and some practical use of radio equipment. Our aim for the spring term is to communicate using satellites or, if the International Space Station happens to pass at the correct time, have a talk to the astronauts on board.

Within the sessions there will be opportunities for all present to speak across many continents using a basic radio and a piece of wire (literally!).

Please could you let the form teacher know if your child or you are interested in attending as it really is not just for kids!

Questionnaires

Thank you for all your quick responses to our Parent Survey. It is very important to us to know your views so that we can continue to improve life at Fairholme for all our pupils.

One issue that has been raised is that two Parents' Evenings a year would be preferable. In response to this, we have decided to include a Parent's evening, early in the Spring term, to discuss progress so far during the year. We would also like to emphasise our 'open-door' policy. Parents are welcome to speak to Form Teachers or myself informally before or after school each day and are also welcome to book an appointment with staff at any



Remembrance

This year we celebrated Armistice Day with poetry reading, hymns and prayers. A minute's silence was then observed in the playground at 11am. Meanwhile, our prefects remembered past and present conflicts by attending prayers and a two-minute silence with the community and representa-

tives from schools and emergency services in St. Asaph High Street.

On remembrance Sunday, many children from school also attended the Cathedral Service and procession down the High Street to lay wreaths at the War Memorial. Thank you to everyone who came to represent Fairholme at this event.

Kindergarten's Cooking Column



This half term Kindergarten was transformed into a bakery. They have been busy learning all about the topic 'Cooking'. We made a fruit cocktail and

tasted the different varieties of bread. Kindergarten also baked and iced Christmas biscuits, which looked and tasted delicious!

Music Matters

Many children have been brave enough to take music exams this term. Lucy, Libby, Freyja, Elijah and Jasper all took piano prep tests, while Beau, Darcie, Ruby and Fergus took prep tests in singing. Nathaniel took Grade 1 singing, Christian, Grade 1 piano, Charlotte, Grade 1 saxophone, Molly, Grade 2 piano and Devanshi, Grade 4 singing. Those taking prep tests are awarded a certificate on the day while others anxiously await results. I am sure you have all done very well. Devanshi meanwhile has achieved a distinction in her Grade 1 Music Theory. Excellent work!

convenient time if they would like to discuss an issue in more depth.

Some of your comments seem to suggest parents are not all aware of the full range of enrichment activities available to children at lunchtime clubs. Clubs include indoors: French; Spanish; Drama; Wake-up-Shake-up; Chess; Thinking skills; Typing; Craft while outdoors: Hockey; Ball skills; Golf; Tag Rugby. Children take part in these in rotation although may attend additional language clubs outside this rotation.

If you have yet to complete the questionnaire, it is not too late. Your views are important to us!

Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Thursday 15 December to Wednesday 21 December, 9am— 4pm	Form I upwards	Fairholme Drama Workshop
Monday 9 January — Friday 13 January	Form III upwards	Revision Week
Monday 16 January — Friday 20 January	Forms III upwards	Exam Week
Thursday 26 January 4pm — 6.30pm	Parents welcome	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 27 March am	ALL	The Tempest — Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 28 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	The Tempest Whole School Musical Production
Thursday 29 March 1.30	ALL Parents welcome	The Tempest Whole School Musical Production



Autumn Assemblies

Assemblies give an opportunity for all the children to learn about, discuss and reflect on citizenship topics and related bible stories, as well as marking particular events and celebrations from this country and around the world. This term topics we have looked at include the reason for rules, working as a team, keeping safe and

healthy, the changing seasons, 'Is seeing believing?', peace and remembrance, friendship and anti-bullying and Advent and Christmas.

All these topics provoke thinking among pupils. The children are encouraged to celebrate spiritual and cultural diversity and to promote care and respect for each other.

Summer Reading Challenge

Many children took part in the summer reading challenge back in July and August organised by our local libraries. To complete the challenge, children are required to visit the library at least

three times and read at least six books suitable for their age group. The children were rightly rewarded for their efforts, receiving medals from our Denbighshire libraries representative.



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