



Fairholme Focus

Volume 3, Issue 3

February 2012

At the End of the Rainbow

We were delighted to start the new term with almost all the building work complete. We were greeted by slightly puzzled faces as children and parents entered School through our new reception, many heading towards brand new classrooms.

Amid many cries of 'Wipe your feet!' from Mrs. Perkins, the children settled straight into

their new accommodation, enjoying the new space and equipment in the classrooms and the better facilities for dining, craft work and music.

Some rather cold and drab weather during our first week back gave way to a moment of sunshine providing us with this rather splendid picture of 'new hope' at Fairholme!



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New School Council in Session!

The new School Council was voted in at the start of term and is up and running. Their issues on the table currently include:

- The voting system for the Council, how could it be improved?
- What charities should be supported next?
- What memento should be produced and sold at the School Production of 'The Tempest'?
- Could the House Point system be improved?

No doubt you agree that these are all vital issues which must be tackled forthwith!



Special points of interest:

- Half Term Sports Camp – come and join the fun, sign up now!
- Radio Club – read all about developments on page 2
- Science news in Form I and Form IV – see pages 2 and 3
- Chinese New Year – read how we celebrated at Fairholme!



This Half term in radio club we have discussed many aspects of radio and had lots of practice using a VHF Hand-held radio (Walkie-Talkie). The children have shown great interest in space, talking about many subjects including 'repeaters' in space and the international space station. The question that keeps coming up is, "When are we going to speak to the astronauts?" The children are beginning to grasp how complex this might actually be and have learnt that we may only get minutes to speak to them, hence many

of the sessions have been focused on the phonetic alphabet, radio telephony and proper use of the equipment. I myself have been blown away by how much the children already know and how quickly, even some of the younger ones, can learn. Apart from radio, the children have asked many questions to do with the internet and mobile phone technology. I have done my best to research and bring back to the group the answers to questions but often find myself shocked as the children often

have found answers themselves. We will close this half term with a session concentrating on Morse-code and hopefully get the children tapping out their names and learning the SOS formation. All in all, I look forward to the next half term where we will be able to concentrate more on the practical side and many more subjects surrounding radio. It still isn't too late if you or your child want to join in, the other children in the group are always happy to help the newcomers and bring them up to speed. A.H.

Making Connections

During this half term Form I have been looking at 'Homes'. They have found out about homes in the past and the differences between then and now. There was an extra interest in finding out about electricity and how we use it in everyday

life. The class were keen to investigate how a light bulb works and made their own light using simple wires and batteries. The children also talked about the dangers of electricity and identified hazards found in the home.



Our New Music Room

Music Matters

Fantastic results came through for our musicians over the Christmas break. Nathaniel was awarded a Merit for Grade 1 singing, Christian, a Merit for Grade 1 piano, Charlotte, a Distinction for Grade 1 saxophone, Molly, Grade 2 piano and a Distinction for Grade 2 clarinet and Devanshi, Grade 4 singing. Excellent work everyone! Many are now preparing for their next exams in March and May.

Australia Day

Australia Day was marked in our assemblies with popular Australian songs and an Aboriginal creation story. For those of you who keep up with the music we listen to in assemblies, this was the week for Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals—The Kangaroo. Children brought many Australian

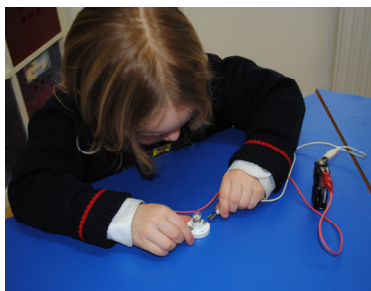
items from home including a boomerang, various kangaroos and koalas and some Australian coins.



Think Pink

The half-term ended with our non-uniform charity 'Wear it Pink' Day held so that Fairholme could help be part of the cure for breast cancer. On this day, organized by the School Council, children came to

school in their own clothes in return for a small donation for our charity box. Many pink cakes were also on sale to raise even more money. Thank you everyone for contributing so generously.



Welcome to Aditya, Rohit, Eirllys, Ethan, Calden and Iolo!



Exam Week

All the older children have begun this term with some very hard work, firstly with revision week and then exam week. It is important that the children become used to working independently in an exam situation from time to time to prepare them for years of schooling to come and it gives them a chance to show us what they can do on their own. I am always very impressed by all the children's efforts and their dedication throughout the week.

Many excellent results have emerged as well. The most important thing, however, (speaking to the children now) is to make sure you are always trying your best and that you endeavour to learn from your mistakes so that you can build on your successes, year on year.

Form VII of course have been taking their entrance exams and have been working very hard in preparation. I am sure their efforts will have been worthwhile.

Mopping-Up in Form IV

Form IV has been investigating! As part of our topic about 'Materials,' the pupils were asked to find out which material is best for mopping up spills. They chose the materials they wished to test from a selection of natural and manufactured materials, such as cotton, Cellophane and polyester. Their task was to ensure that the experiment was fair so they had to make sure

that they only changed the material they were testing and kept everything else the same. They worked very carefully to achieve this; cutting the materials to exactly the same size, using measuring cylinders and syringes to accurately measure the water and timing how long they mopped up for. Their conclusion...why not try it for yourself?



Year of the Dragon

Form II have been discussing Chinese New Year this term. We all worked out which year we were born and the animal related to that year and found that we are a class of dogs and roosters! We discussed how this year, 2012, is the year of the 'Dragon' and we learned about Chinese customs during the 15 day celebration. We found out that people celebrating the New Year hand out small red envelopes filled with money to bring their recipients good luck and so set about creating our own envelopes using ICT to help us with the language and filled them with chocolate coins. We also created our own Chinese Dragons using

lots of paint, felt tips, glue and feathers!

We then came, armed with knowledge, to our whole school assembly focussing on Chinese New Year. We saw a dancing dragon, we talked about special food eaten to bring health, wealth and fortune and more chocolate coins were available for those who could pick them up with chop-sticks!



Hindu Collage

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This term, Form V pupils have been studying Hinduism as part of their Religious Education topic.

They had great fun making collages of Hindu gods and goddesses.



Fee Fi Fo Fum

This half term the children from Kindergarten have enjoyed listening to Traditional Tales and have been busy dressing up as princes, princesses and knights in the castle

role play corner. The children listened to the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and then planted broad bean seeds.



Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 13 February – Wednesday 15 February	Form I upwards	Half-Term Sports' Camp
Tuesday 6 March – Thursday 8 March	Form I upwards	World Educational Games Including World Maths Day
Saturday 10 March 10am – 4pm	Forms VI & VII Visitors and Parents welcome	Open Day and Official Opening Ceremony of New Buildings
Thursday 22 March 3.30 – 4.30pm	Parents welcome	School Uniform Sale By School and Leisure In the Dining Room
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 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	The Tempest Whole School Musical Production
Tuesday 8 May am	ALL	School Photographs
Tuesday 29 May	Forms VI & VII	LAMDA Exams
Wednesday 30 May	Forms IV & V	LAMDA Exams
Monday 18 June – Friday 22 June	Forms III – VII	Summer School Exams
Thursday 5 July 2.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	Summer End of Year Service St. Asaph Cathedral



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