



# Fairholme Focus

Volume 4, Issue 1

October 2012

## Welcome!

Welcome back everyone! It has been great to see everyone return to school raring to go after the summer break.

This term has already been an active one with

special events including the Book Fair, Harvest Festival, Science Day and netball and football matches, as well as a very hard working start to the year.

A special welcome goes to all our new faces this term. We are very pleased that everyone has settled down quickly and, whatever their age, have thrown themselves enthusiastically into life at Fairholme.

## The Wonders of Science

Last week we launched the opening of our new Science Room with a special Science Day in which all the children became involved. The day started with pupils from KG to Form II learning all about Astronauts. They discovered what Astronauts eat, problems that arise with zero gravity, how they get their energy, how disposable nappies were developed for the early astronauts and how to run a fair test on astronaut food.

Forms III to V looked at some 'Amazing Materials': sodium acrylate which is super absorbent, materials that change colour with light or heat, what CO<sub>2</sub> can do, natural dyes and different types of rock. We were particularly fascinated by one substance, a mixture of corn flour and water, that could not make up its mind whether it was a liquid or a solid! Some children ran their fingers through it and it acted

like a liquid but then punched it and it became hard, like a solid. The corn flour particles are suspended in the water and so it flows like a liquid. But when a force is applied to it, the particles lock together, acting like a solid. As soon as the force stops, the slime goes back to being runny, much to the dismay of some unsuspecting children who were trying to keep clean! This experiment is one to try again at home, if your family do not mind mess!

Another highlight of the morning was the investigation into burning. What three things are necessary for a flame? Which one was missing in the candle-in-a-jar experiment and which in Jack's experiment which involved trying to burst a balloon full of water? (Experiments with flames must only be tried under parent supervision.) **Contd. on page 2**



**Welcome to Charlotte, Lily, Aoife, Laura, Lucy, William, Isha, Poppy, Izhran, James, Izabella, Rhea, Lucie, Oliver and Umer!**

### Inside this issue:

This is the Time!	<b>2</b>
Music Matters	<b>2</b>
Cleaning Up Dirty Water	<b>2</b>
Sports' Slot	<b>3</b>
Blast-Off	<b>3</b>
Form IV Down to the River	<b>3</b>
Key Dates	<b>4</b>

### Special points of interest:

- Half-term Sports Camp — come and join the fun, sign up now
- Read about our Harvest Assembly on page 3
- Read about the new School Council proposal for a fruit tuck shop in 'Fruitful Ideas'
- Enjoy the Drama Workshop news and pictures on Page 2.



## This is the Time



To round off the Summer Holiday we organised another Drama Workshop which ran for 5 days at the end of August and beginning of September.



Our theme was 'Time' and the children came up with plenty of ideas about time, 3 of which we homed in on to create our own production. Using poems, made by the group



and borrowed from various authors, we presented a three act play: 'Back in Time' included a potted history of Britain from the Magna Carter to the present day; 'Olympic Time' described all the sports we had all enjoyed watching during the 2012 Olympics in the previous weeks; and 'Wasting Time' which suggested how we could best waste our time!

The variety and fast pace of the final production no doubt left the audience stunned! A fantastic time was had by all performers and crew particularly enjoying the very scary rendition of 'Time Warp', originally from the 'Rocky Horror Picture Show'.

Our next workshop is arranged for December 17–20. Don't miss out!



## Music Matters

We have been delighted to welcome Mrs. Cotterill to our music department this term. Mrs. Cotterill is teaching class music literacy and singing as well as taking the individual woodwind students for saxophone, clarinet and flute lessons, running the recorder group and the windband. Many new instrumental students have started lessons



this term and we are looking forward to hearing the new, revamped windband at Christmas!

Meanwhile, Mrs. Williams has an extremely full timetable with many new piano and singing students and some young guitarists are emerging with Mrs. Perkins. We are hoping to hold ABRSM examinations again at School during the Spring Term.

## Fruitful Ideas

The new School Council is now in session. Various discussions have been ably led by Austin and Lowri which have resulted in a decision to trial a fruit tuck shop to be held each last break. Fruit will be 25p per piece and cards for payment will be available for purchase from reception. Any proceeds from

fruit sales will then be available for School Council to spend as they see fit towards school improvements!



## Science Day contd.

In the afternoon, Forms VI and VII looked in some detail into the planets. Science fiction can be really annoying when it gets the science facts wrong. The size of stars and planets and the distances between them are huge. The children used a variety of scales to explain relative sizes and distances in the solar system and our galaxy.

We used modelling to demonstrate day and night and the seasons as well as gravity's pull towards the sun. The children then conducted an experiment to test how the path and speed of planets is affected by size and finished by recreating moon craters just like the real thing.

The day was thoroughly enjoyable and we hope that the children are now, and will continue to be, excited by science at Fairholme.



## Cleaning Up Dirty Water

During their Science topic, entitled 'More about Dissolving,' Form VII have been finding out about how the water that comes into our homes is made clean enough for us to drink. This led to them designing their

own filter beds to replicate part of this process, using sand, gravel and kitchen towel. The children waited, with anticipation, for the dirty water to filter through to see which group had produced the 'cleanest' water.



We were delighted to join the yearly Netball and Football Tournaments at King's School earlier this term. Each of our teams played six matches against schools from around the Chester area. We were delighted that this year our girls performed extremely well, winning the plate competition and

although the boys did not win this year, they had a great afternoon taking part in the competition. At the presentation, everyone received medals and certificates.

We are now looking forward to, and practising for, the next tournament to be held at Abbey Gate.

## Bumper Harvest

Thank you so much for all your generous harvest gifts. Mrs. Jones and the after-school clubbers arranged a fantastic harvest display for us in the School Hall and all the forms contributed towards a highly entertaining harvest assembly including songs, plays, haikus readings and prayers.

Your gifts were passed on to 'Save the Family' which is a charity based in North Wales and Chester. The food was sent to Plas Bellin Hall which provides accommodation for 24 homeless families, helping parents to learn new skills and apply for work so that they can get back on their feet.



## Getting to Know You!

The children of Form I have been finding out about their bodies this half term. We have looked at the five senses in detail. The activities included an eye test, a hearing test with musical instruments, tasting and

smelling a range of tasty nibbles and using our hands to explore various objects in a texture box. The children also looked at their fingerprints through a magnifying glass and we took samples of our fingerprints.

## Blast-Off

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... Kindergarten blast into Space! We have all been busy designing and making aliens and building rockets to fly around the classroom. During this topic Kindergarten took part in space week by practising a poem called 'Blast Off!' and then performing this in front of the whole school during a special assembly.



## Down to the River

As part of their geography studies, Form IV took a trip to the River Elwy this week.

Sporting the new Fairholme raincoats and accompanied by Mrs. Evans, Mr. Perkins and Trix, Form IV studied the river and water levels. They then carried

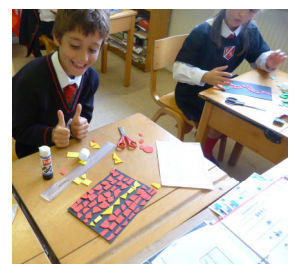
out experiments to measure the speed of the river flow.

On the way back, the children went to look at the War Memorial and the HM Stanley obelisk to enhance their local history studies. They then enjoyed a brief visit to the riverside playground before returning to school.

## Roman Mosaics

Form V have been studying Roman mosaics and have used the ideas to create their own. Once we had chosen designs, we planned them out on paper to determine how simple they would be to make. We then made our design using tiles cut from gummed paper to practice the mosaic process, leaving interstices between

each tile. Finally, we produced a different design which we would use to create a mosaic using foam pieces, backed onto black card.



## Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 22 October to Wednesday 24 October, 10am– 3pm	Form I upwards	Fairholme Half-Term Sports Camp
Sunday 11 November	School Council members and volunteers/parents welcome	Remembrance in St. Asaph Cathedral Service 10:10am or War Memorial 10:45am School uniform please!
Thursday 22 November 4pm –7 pm	Parents welcome	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 28 November	ALL	Christmas Lunch
Friday 30 November After school – ~ 6pm	Form III upwards  Parents welcome	Party in the Street, St. Asaph (We have been invited to sing/play at the street party. We hope most children will stay for party food at school followed by performance in Chester Street.)
Wednesday 5 December 2.30 pm	Forms KG, I, II and III  Parents welcome	Nativity Play at Oriel House Hotel (Please drop KG, I, II & III children at Oriel House before 9am instead of Fairholme for a rehearsal)
Tuesday 11 December Afternoon	KG – Form III	Christmas Party and visit from Father Christmas
Tuesday 11 December Afternoon Late pick-up (5pm)	Form IV – Form VII	Trip to Theatr Clwyd for Christmas Panto – Dick Whittington
Wednesday 12 December afternoon	ALL	Rehearsal for Carol Service (Please collect children from the Cathedral at usual finishing time)
Thursday 13 December 2.30 pm	ALL  Parents welcome	Carol Service at St. Asaph Cathedral (Please collect children from the Cathedral after the Service)
Monday 17 December - Thursday 20 December 9am - 4pm	Form I upwards	Drama Workshop



**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)

