



# Fairholme Focus

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## Happy Christmas

During this second half of term, the children have enjoyed an industrious few weeks in class, have developed their investigative skills in science, making use of our new science facility and have had the chance to join in the very many enrichment activities provided at school. These have included many outdoor sports, four languages – Welsh, French,

Spanish and German, bridge building in technology, chess using the new android tablets and reading the story of Julius Caesar on e-readers in Kobo club.

The run up to Christmas is always a busy time at Fairholme, though never busier than this year, when our School Inspection coincided with Christmas festivities. Despite this, everything planned for the Christmas celebrations went ahead as

normal including the lower school nativity play, Christmas lunch, Party in the Street carol singing, Carols under the Tree and trip to the Meadows nursing home, trip to the Theatr Clwyd pantomime, lower school Christmas party with visit from Santa Claus and finally our cathedral carol service.

We now wish you all a restful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you back in 2013.

## Are We Nearly There Yet?

This year's nativity play, 'Are We Nearly There Yet?' by Helen and Mark Johnson, told of the important journeys made by Mary and Joseph, played by Abigail and Iwan, as well as those made by the Shepherds, Angels and Kings. All the children gave a confident and accomplished performance and clearly enjoyed themselves in the process. The angel dance was a particular highlight which we are sure will be replayed on DVD for years to come! We are looking forward to seeing much of this emerging talent put to use in our winter drama workshop and forthcoming Easter production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.



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## An Inspector Calls

Unlike the J.B. Priestley thriller, not one but four inspectors spent four days with us last week to see exactly what we are up to! A huge amount of preparation went into all the documentation presented to the inspectors, in terms of policies, self evaluation and presentation of data, as well as the outcomes for the children shown in the children's exercise books. Of course, it is

quite a stressful experience for staff and probably pupils as well as everyone is required to 'perform' for the visitors. Children read books to them and showed them computer skills, the School Council were consulted and assemblies and lessons were watched. Despite the stress, the experience was a very positive one in which we were able to demonstrate all the things

we do so well at Fairholme. The children all behaved in an exemplary fashion, as always, and the inspectors could not fail to have been impressed by their good manners and confidence as well as their literacy, numeracy and ICT skills. Having entertained our guests late into the evening for three days, it was with a certain amount of relief that we bade them 'Goodbye' by Thursday lunchtime! We will of course provide details of the Inspection Team findings when the Final Report is produced in February.

### Special points of interest:

- Winter Drama Workshop – come and join the fun, sign up now
- Operation Christmas Child, see page 2
- Read about our new ICT skills emerging with the introduction of Android Tablets in classrooms, see page 3
- Intranet Club, the children taking charge of the House Points system – see Page 3.

## Bearing Fruit



Another School Council initiative was implemented this term with the introduction of a Fruit Tuck Shop held at afternoon break, managed by the School Council, assisted by other members of Form VII. This has proved hugely popular with children of all ages,

queuing up for apples, bananas, pears and oranges.

Profits from the tuck shop and the proceeds of the recent second hand uniform sale will be spent, under the direction of the Council who are keen to supplement the outdoor amenities for the school.

## Looney Linguists

In French Club, we have been learning vocabulary related to eating out in a 'French Café'. The children performed role plays in groups, acting out the roles of waiters/waitresses and also as customers. The waiters/waitresses greeted their customers and asked which drinks and food they would like and the customers then gave their drinks and food orders.

Various French foods were sampled which included: croissants, pains au chocolat, chocolate brioches and crêpes. Finally, the customers asked for the bill and the payment was made in Euros. The children enjoyed this real life scenario as well as tasting the delicious food.



## 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. This was the first Christmas Lunch held in the new School Dining Room. As last year, the Dancing Santa was the star of the show. Thank you to Mrs. Sanders for all her hard work!



## Victorian Christmas

Form I have been finding out about 'Families' this half term. Activities have included making their own family tree, learning the names of different family members and painting a family member's portrait. As we approached December the children started

the role play, Victorian Christmas house. The children enjoyed dressing up in Victorian clothes, playing charades, decorating the Christmas tree and warming themselves by the fire. They were surprisingly dextrous when it came to making paper chains!



## Operation Christmas Child

Congratulations to everyone who provided Christmas shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child appeal. We managed to collect 67 boxes which set off from St. Asaph on 19 November. This year it is possible to track the boxes which were paid for online,

so we hope to be able to report on the destination of a few of the boxes next term.





We were pleased, once again, to join St Asaph community at the Street Party, this year held in the RN Williams car park. The children delighted parents and members of the community with a full range of songs, traditional and modern, English and Welsh. Scarves and gloves were out in force, although compared to previous

street parties and recent weather in St. Asaph, it was very mild. Well done everyone for taking part, it was an excellent turn out from Fairholme. Thank you to Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Cotterill for all the musical arrangements and to Mrs. Sanders for her treats of hot chocolate and hot dogs before the singers set off!



## Intranet Club

Following the success of the Radio Club last year, Alex is back implementing an Intranet for the input and reporting of house points at school. The children are actively engaged in setting up this system and inputting the data. The system provides reports on points scored by individuals, classes and houses. A feature the children particularly enjoy is the leader board (akin to various popular TV shows), showing who is ahead on points each week. Not only is this great fun, it is also developing the children's ICT skills and interest in and ownership of the House system at school. The system can next be expanded to include a pupil's blog and a communication with teachers tool.



## We Will Remember Them

There was a splendid turnout at St. Asaph Cathedral for the Remembrance Day service. The congregation included many Fairholme parents and children. After the service, the Bishop of St. Asaph led a procession down to the war memorial. A minute's silence was held at 11am, after which wreaths were laid

at the cenotaph by various community organisations. Our Head Boy, Austin, and Head Girl, Lowri, laid a wreath on behalf of our school. It is a privilege for us to be part of this important demonstration of respect and gratitude for those who gave 'their today for our tomorrow'. We will remember them.

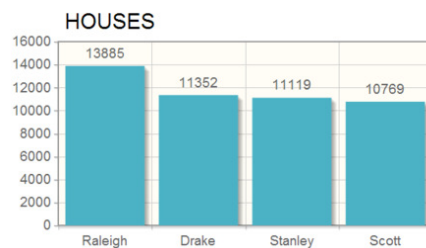
## Tablets & Tables

We have recently invested in a number of Android Tablets to provide another dimension for our ICT. The teachers are now busy trying out these and evaluating the many educational apps available.

So far we have discovered many and diverse uses for the tablets. In our enrichment clubs, the children have been using the camera and note taking facilities in 'Roving Reporters' and also learning to play chess against the tablet and each other in Chess Club.

In the classrooms, the tablets have proved useful in developing phonic skills, have been used for drawing, counting money, learning about time and practising times tables.

The children have, of course, taken to this new technology like ducks to water!



## Children in Need

Thank you everyone for your kind contributions to Children in Need Day held in November. The children enjoyed coming to school in their own clothes and took an active interest in the cake sale at break time! Fantastic donations of cakes were made by Forms VI and VII and other volunteers, all of which were devoured during breaks, on this occasion casting aside all ideas of healthy eating at the Fruit Tuck Shop! Jamie, our self-appointed auctioneer, organized the sale of this splendid Children in Need Cake to raise extra funds for our charity day. A special thank you goes to Kenura and Sithika's mother for this very special contribution.



## Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 17 December to Thursday 20 December, 9am– 4pm	Form I upwards	Fairholme Drama Workshop
Monday 7 January – Friday 11 January	Form III upwards	Revision Week
Monday 14 January – Friday 18 January	Forms III upwards	Exam Week
Tuesday 19 February	Form III upwards	School Trip—Narnia Experience St. George's Hall, Liverpool Please bring packed lunch
Tuesday 19 March am	ALL	The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe – Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 20 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe Whole School Musical Production
Thursday 21 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe Whole School Musical Production

### Santa's Little Helpers

This half term Kindergarten has been transformed into Santa's workshop! The children have been dressing up

as elves and have been busy wrapping presents in time for Christmas Eve!

### Summer Reading Challenge

A record number of 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.

### 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 teamwork, school rules, space, changing seasons, peace, fire, the US Presidential

Election, jealousy, role models, friendship, anti-bullying, keeping safe, global citizenship 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.



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