



Fairholme Focus

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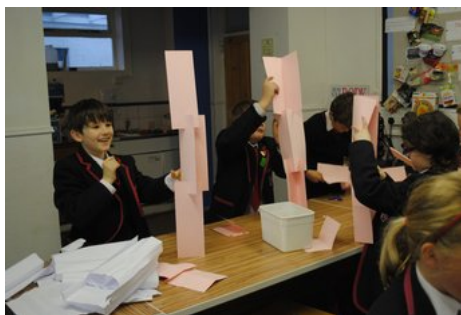
Welcome

After a restful Christmas holiday period, we launched straight into revision week followed by a week of school examinations which, together with preparation for Form VII entrance exams, certainly kept the children on their toes. As some light relief to this academic start to term, we began our preparations and rehearsals for the Spring Musical Production.

We are delighted to welcome a number of new children to Fairholme as well as Miss Palmer who has joined us in Kindergarten to cover Miss Foulkes' maternity leave and Mrs. Cameron, our additional piano and singing teacher who has taken a number of music pupils from our waiting list. We will shortly be distributing our Estyn Inspection Report and have included a few highlights from this to whet your appetite!



Welcome to Cameron, Harri, Monty, Charlotte and Charlie!



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There is an outstanding range of enrichment clubs that take place after school and during break times. These have a very significant impact on the progress pupils make ...

Techno Triumphs

In Techno Triumphs this term, pupils were set the challenge 'What is the tallest tower you can make from a sheet of A4 paper?' The only things they could use were one sheet of paper and a pair of scissors.

The challenge gave pupils the opportunity to learn about Science in practical contexts through design and technology activities.

In the challenge, pupils worked through the following sequence of design and technology best practice:

- Investigate real objects;
- Learn skills, knowledge and techniques through guided practical tasks;
- Carry out design-and-make assignments.

We looked at different types of towers, including skyscrapers, lighthouses and

aerial masts and discussed what each tower was made from and why. We looked at various techniques for strengthening paper by folding, rolling paper to make structures, ways of joining paper and how to overcome gravity.

Pupils then designed their towers and built them using only paper and scissors.

Special points of interest:

- Open Day – Saturday, 9th March, a chance for prospective parents to see Fairholme and for all to see a preview of our forthcoming production!
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – read all about it on page 2
- Intranet Club, how the children are developing their intranet and writing their own websites – see Page 3.

Beyond the Wardrobe Door . . .

The principals have been successful in establishing a shared vision for the school based on high expectations of pupils' achievement and behaviour, but also in developing pupils' wider skills and talents.



This half term we have started working on our next musical show, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". Each of the classes have read a version of the story and the music department have been working hard in preparation for the event.

We were amazed by the outstanding interest shown last week at auditions. The emerging talent in all classes from Form III to Form VII was very much in evidence. Children showed extreme enthusiasm and performed so well in such a variety of roles that it became a nightmare to choose the final cast.

Consequently, to provide opportunities for as many children as possible, both for those with much acting

experience as well as for some with a newfound interest, we have decided to have three performances in March, each with different lead roles. We hope that you will invite as many friends and family as possible to ensure that we have a full house for each cast. If you are not sure which performance to attend, details are displayed on the drama and music notice board in the School Hall, or for avid musical fans, why not try them all!

There are good opportunities for pupils to develop their literacy and information and communication technology skills . . .

Facilitating Discovery

Form IV has been taking advantage of the new science room in school. As part of our topic 'Helping plants to grow well,' we have carried out lots of practical work. We watched video clips on the new projector to discover where sugar and flour comes from and then made delicious cakes using these ingredients.

We have also investigated if plants need leaves to grow and if plants grow more the more you water them. We used the tablets to take pictures of our investigations and downloaded them onto the computer.

. . . recent improvements in the quality of provision have led to higher standards . . .



Focus on Food – Day for Change

We rounded off this half term with a non-uniform day in support of UNICEF – Day for Change. Led by the School Council and Form VII, the children collected change in exchange for wearing their own clothes and enjoyed a change of break time snacks (not altogether a healthy change) as they consumed any number of wonderful

cakes donated by parents. Thank you all for your kind support of this event.



On Burns' Night this year we enjoyed a special Scottish Assembly in celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns. Our assembly included performance of poems and songs written by Robert Burns, listening to some bagpipe playing and finally a demonstration of some Scottish Dancing.



Intranet Club

Well, another half term has passed and I have been amazed again by the progress that I have seen in the group. This half term we have been learning all sorts of things from simple data entry to web site design. Many of the pupils now have their own websites and all of them have mastered the process of putting house points on and adding pupils to the Intranet system.

If you have been hearing your children talking about learning to HACK then don't worry. Their questions on 'Hacking' have brought up the subject of internet security and the children therefore have learnt about passwords and making systems secure. We also have discussed

Houses & Homes

The children in Form I have been finding out about 'Houses and Homes' this half term. They have constructed different models of houses and discovered what homes are like around the world. They have made the Three Little Pigs' houses using straw, sticks and bricks and they have been busy 'designing and building' in our construction area. The children have looked at home life before and after electricity and also identified potential hazards of electricity in the home. They very much enjoyed building an electrical circuit, lighting the bulb and starting the motor.

Form III ended their Geography topic, 'Going to France' by tasting some French foods. We set up a French cafe in our classroom and pretended to be waiters and customers for the lesson. We had lots of fun trying Brie, French Roule, croissants, pain au chocolate and crepes. We decided against trying snails and frog legs! We also learnt some French vocabulary to make our cafe seem even more authentic. C'est Magnifique!

Top 10 Pupils

First Name	Last Name	Points	Class	House
Robert	Thomas	980	Form V/1	Stables
Morgan	Phillips	960	Form V/1	Stables
James	Whitford	940	Form V/1	Tigons
Elliot	Adley-Captain	740	Form IV	Scott
Henry	Clarke	730	Form IV	Stables
Jack	Wright	720	Form IV	Stables
Madeline	Stuart	710	Form V/1	Tigons
Maxwell	Turton	680	Form IV	Scott
Carroll	Stall	680	Form V/1	Scott
Laura	Clarke	680	Form IV	Drake

Top 10 Pupils For Current Half Term Only

First Name	Last Name	Points	Class	House
Elliot	Adley-Captain	810	Form IV	Scott
Robert	Thomas	800	Form V/1	Stables
Kyle	Wheeler-Collis	800	Form IV	Stables
Benjamin	Baker	820	Form V/1	Stables
Charles	Wright	810	Form IV	Stables
Maxwell	Kilburn	810	Form IV	Stables
Morgan	Phillips	800	Form V/1	Stables
Laura	Clarke	810	Form IV	Drake
James	Wheeler	810	Form V/1	Tigons
Benjamin	Benjamin-Roberts	820	Form IV	Scott

"Social Engineering". This is when someone tries to obtain information about someone else by convincing them that they are somebody they are not. I would certainly say that, since our discussions, I have seen the children being more vigilant in their everyday computer use.

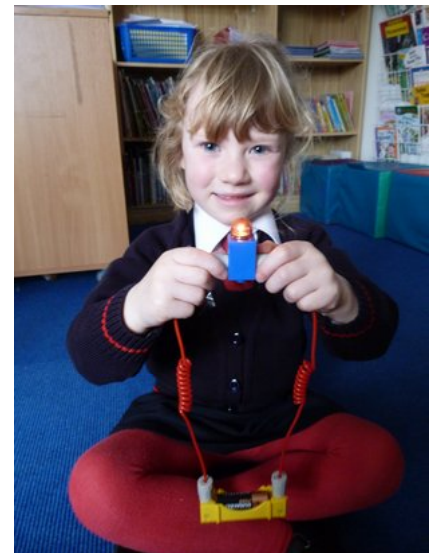
Next term I am hoping to see everyone have their own website and we will talk more about internet security which, as some of you might know, has become headline news lately. The offer is still open to more pupils and parents to attend. The existing members of the group are very keen to help newcomers get up to speed and there is no need for any "Hi-tech" computer knowledge. Have a great half-term break. AH



... teachers have high expectations of pupils, conduct lessons at a lively pace, and use a range of teaching approaches that interest and engage pupils well.

Chinese New Year

This Year is the Chinese Year of the Snake. In our Chinese New Year Assembly this week, the children watched a dragon dance and learned about how the years came to get their animal names. The children then looked into which year they were born and whether they have any likely characteristics. Finally the drama club performed a sketch with a Chinese theme, "The Magic Paintbrush".



Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 11 February – Wednesday 13 February 10am – 3pm	Form I upwards	Sports Camp
Tuesday 19 February	Form III upwards	School Trip – Narnia Experience St. George’s Hall, Liverpool Please bring packed lunch
Friday 22 February	ABRSM candidates	ABRSM piano, singing and wood- wind examinations (in school)
Saturday 9 March 10am – 3pm	Forms VI & VII, all lead roles in TLWW cast & windband Parents and visitors welcome	OPEN DAY A chance for prospective parents to see the school and all to preview our school production.
Thursday 14 March	Parents welcome	School Uniform Sale (by School and Leisure) In Dining Room
Tuesday 19 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe Whole School Musical Production
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
Monday 25 March– Wednesday 27 March 10am – 3pm	Form I upwards	Sports Camp
Wednesday 17 April am	ALL	School Photographs
Tuesday 21 May, Wednesday 22 May	Forms VI & VII Forms IV & V	LAMDA Speech and Drama Examinations

**In all lessons,
teachers manage
pupils’ behaviour
well and have good
working
relationships that
promote learning
successfully.**

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**Pupils are proud of
their school and are
members of a friendly
and supportive
community, where
relationships between
pupils of all ages are
extremely positive.**