



Fairholme Focus

Volume 5, Issue 2

December 2013

The Spirit of Christmas

Christmas is a time for coming together and for thinking of others. We have been proud to be active in the local community this term and glad that we have contributed to those in need around the world. Children have donated Christmas boxes, organised cake sales, contributed with Christmas singing and swum for sponsorship. The selfless and enthusiastic efforts of

our staff and children, reflected in this term's newsletter, and the generosity of parents, embody the true spirit of Christmas. We wish you all a restful and happy Christmas break.



Busy, Busy Bethlehem

This year's nativity play, 'Busy, Busy Bethlehem' by Niki Davies, told of the busy preparations for the approaching census day. Watching the excitement and directing the crowds was a little soldier, Mia, who was quite cross by Mary and Joseph's (Tedi and Max) late arrival. Some very confident narration was provided by Zara and Musa and an accomplished and most enjoyable performance given by all. DVD's are still available to order if you have missed out on this. We are looking forward to seeing much of this emerging talent put to use in our winter drama workshop and forthcoming Easter production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Thank you to Mrs. Gains, Mrs. Williams and all the team for their excellent work with the children.



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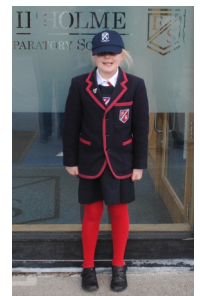
Party in the Street

It is always a pleasure to join with the local community for special events and we were very pleased, therefore, to take the large and enthusiastic bunch of singers who stayed at school late last week to go and provide entertainment at the St. Asaph Street Party. Everyone was in excellent voice and very much enjoyed the first of our many Christmas events.

We have also been involved in the planning of next year's event as the children have taken part in a poster competition to be used as the advertisement for next year's 'Party in the Street'. The Mayor came to school to announce the winner from Fairholme and those children whose posters reached the Town Council's 'shortlist'. James came out as the overall Fairholme winner. Well done everyone who took part.



Welcome to Bethan starting this term!



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 Cooking Club on Page 3
- Singers trip to the Meadows care home – Pg 4
- Farewell to Miss Hughes –see page 4



Boxes of Kindness

Thank you everyone who supported our shoebox appeal for Operation Christmas Child this year. The operation collects small boxes filled with everything from toy cars to toothbrushes and coloured pencils and sends them to

children around the world, much less fortunate than ourselves. We managed to send 58 boxes this year and hope that our shoeboxes will brighten Christmas for all the children who receive them.



Spanish Surprise

This half term at Spanish Club, pupils have had the opportunity to make Spanish flags and taste different Spanish foods. They enjoyed a special Sangria, Serrano ham, Spanish omelette and many other Spanish tapas samples. Paella proved to be the biggest hit of all with absolutely nothing left over for the staff; the children enjoyed second and even third helpings! The girls deserve a big congratulations, however, for being more daring than the boys with their taste buds!



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. Dancing Santa once again made one of his almost legendary appearances. Thank you to Mrs. Sanders for all her hard work!

The Great Fairholme Bake Off

Kindergarten donned their cooking aprons and bakers' hats this half term. The role play corner was transformed into a bakery for all our budding chefs. The first recipe the children followed was for chocolate crispy cakes; they had to melt chocolate, mix ingredients and divide into cases. The children all enjoyed finding out about how bread was made and they sampled different types of

bread. The favourite part of our cooking topic was definitely the tasting!



Hallowe'en Capers

Hallowe'en or All Hallows Eve was marked in assembly this year with a scary performance of Macbeth's Witches from Emma, Isabella and Anna and some 'Duck Apple' games. Meanwhile some of the lower school were holding Hallowe'en celebrations of their own.

Form I, raised almost £150 for the Perthes Association and looked to be a great fun evening where some daddies were made into mummies by the children!



Louis W-W's Hallowe'en party, attended by all of Form II and their parents and a few children from



Summer Reading

Well done to everyone who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge at local libraries. Cara from St. Asaph Library came to award medals to those who completed the challenge and we were very pleased to see how

many of our pupils had been reading at least six books over the holiday period. Reading is such an important part of our learning and it is great if children can discover books to enjoy themselves. Well done everyone who took part.

Our informal Christmas Concert this year was a great success with singers, pianists and instrumentalists all having a chance to demonstrate the skills they have been learning. Soloists, duets and ensembles exuded confidence as they embraced our Christmas theme.

Our thanks go to Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Cotterill and Mrs. Cameron for all their efforts with their individual students. We have so much musical talent at Fairholme and this was a very special occasion to celebrate this.



River Trip

As part of their geography studies, Form IV took a trip to the River Elwy this half term. Accompanied by Mrs. Evans, Miss Foulkes, Mr. Perkins, Trix and Shadow, Form IV studied the flood plain and erosion so evident after last year's floods, 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 enjoyed a brief visit to the riverside playground before returning to school.



minute's silence was held at 11am, after which wreaths were laid at the cenotaph by various community organisations. Our Head Boy and Girl and School Captain led the representatives from the School Council up to the memorial to lay a wreath on behalf of Fairholme. 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

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

We further marked the occasion with an Armistice Day Assembly, where members of Form VI and VII performed a variety of readings and poems allowing everyone to understand why we wear poppies.

We will remember them.



A Chance to Dance

Early birds arriving at school early on 30 November, St. Andrew's Day, found themselves scooped into the Scottish Dancing Troop, rehearsed and ready for performance by 9am. As part of our St.

Andrew's Day assembly, which included performance of acrostic poems written and performed by Form IV, our troop demonstrated 'The Dashing White Sergeant'

Cooking Club

The recently formed Cooking Club has given pupils the opportunity to make pizza, rice crispy cakes, flapjacks, fruit salad and fruit smoothies. Pupils enjoyed designing some crazy combinations for their pizza toppings and getting stuck into stirring mixtures for their cakes and flapjacks. The most fun was had in preparing the fruit salad. Pupils have worked brilliantly together and all of our recipes have worked out wonderfully despite some rather 'welded to the tray' flapjack!



Christmas Party

As the end of term approached, excitement was at fever pitch! Never more so than on Christmas Party day when children came to school in party clothes ready to meet Santa Claus, eat party food and enjoy the Christmas puppet show.

Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 16 December to Friday 20 December, 9am— 4pm	Form I upwards	Fairholme Drama Workshop - 'The Polar Express'
Tuesday 7 January — Friday 10 January	Form III upwards	Revision Week
Monday 13 January — Friday 17 January	Form III upwards	Exam Week
Saturday 15 March 10am — 3pm	Forms VI & VII Visitors/Parents	OPEN DAY
Wednesday 26 March am	ALL	A Midsummer Night's Dream — Dress Rehearsal
Thursday 27 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	A Midsummer Night's Dream Whole School Musical Production
Friday 28 March 1.30pm	ALL Parents welcome	A Midsummer Night's Dream Whole School Musical Production



Music to Their Ears Sponsored Swim

Our solo singers group, led by Mrs. Williams, delighted the residents of the Meadows care home with their cheerful rendition of Christmas songs last week. The children happily chatted with the audience after the event and were treated to lemonade and fairy cakes! We very much look forward to returning to the Meadows next year.

On Sunday 1st December, eleven children from Fairholme swam a total of 820 lengths in a sponsored swim to raise funds for the Disaster Emergency Committee's Philippines Appeal.

The children had planned to swim 12km but were all so enthusiastic on the day that they swam loads more – reaching a very impressive total of 20,500 metres !

Thank you to everyone who sponsored our swimmers and to James and Mrs. Webster for organising the event.

Fond Farewell To Miss Hughes

Sadly, we must say 'Farewell' to Miss Hughes after all her excellent work in Kindergarten and Form I as well as helping out this term in Form VI teaching art and French. She has become so much a part of Fairholme that most have forgotten that she has been providing maternity cover. She has been an inspiration to the younger children and will be much missed by children, staff and parents alike. We wish her the best of luck in her future teaching work.



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