



# Fairholme Focus

Volume 5, Issue 3

February 2014

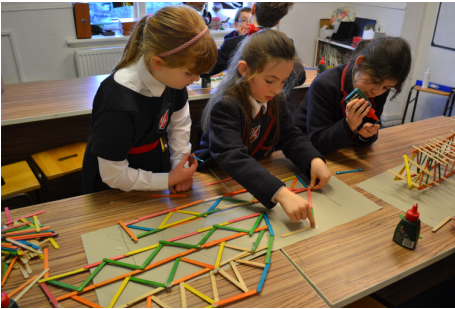
## New Year's Resolutions

We started the new year at school talking in assembly about resolutions. Many of the children had excellent ideas as to what they may do better at, try harder in, take up or give up! By Chinese New Year, celebrated last week, when resolutions were mentioned again in assembly, many children looked rather vague but some were adamant that they were still adhering to their plans.

Whether planned or not, we have all been thrown into a very hard working time with revision and exam week, preparation for entrance exams, followed by various new topics in all areas of the curriculum. I hope we have achieved some light relief with further activities – the start of our school musical preparations, Eisteddfod preparations for the Welsh club and involvement in the huge number of sports and enrichment clubs in which the children have a chance to take part. It is now with some relief, therefore, we have the chance of a slight break and time for reflection!

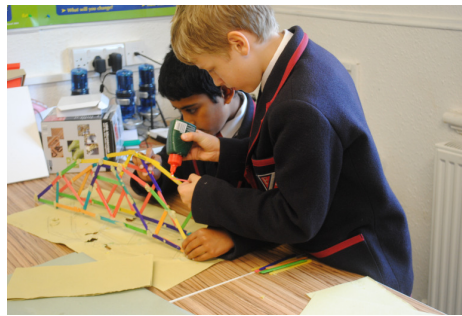


**Welcome to Isobel,  
Poppy and Hugo!**



## Building Bridges

In Techno Triumphs over the last term, groups of children have been constructing lollipop stick bridges to their own design. The objective is to find a design which is both strong and light. Bridges are to be loaded during our next Open Day where some fiercely competitive teams will be vying for position. Each bridge is of the same overall length and will be weighed before loading, then tested to destruction! The bridge loading



spreadsheet, written by our first group of designers, will calculate the 'strength' of each bridge which is equal to the highest load it can carry prior to collapse divided by the mass of the bridge. The bridge design team whose bridge has the highest value of 'strength' will be the overall competition winner. As with real bridge design, aesthetics are important as well and so there will also be prizes for beautifully symmetrical and colour coordinated bridges!

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## Trip, Trap, Trip, Trap

Even more bridge news as Kindergarten have been hearing the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children quickly got busy building bridges for the Billy Goats. The nasty troll is hiding underneath ready to jump out if anyone dares to cross! The children used puppets to act out the story using their bridges as props.



### Special points of interest:

- Open Day – Saturday, 15th March, a chance for prospective parents to see Fairholme and for all to see a preview of our forthcoming production!
- A Midsummer Night's Dream – read all about auditions – on page 2
- Espresso Coding, how the children are developing their computer programming skills – see Page 3.

## Dream or Nightmare?



This half term we have started working on our next musical show, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" or just "Dream" for short! Each of the classes have read a version of the story and the music department have been working hard in preparation for the event.

Shakespeare, you may think, is rather difficult to understand; you may wish to consult Form II, Form I or even Kindergarten however and you will find that this story has been lapped up and to quote one of our songs – "Oh, what a play . . . they'll shout for more and more!"

We were amazed by the outstanding interest shown this week at auditions.

The emerging talent in all classes allowed to take part, from Form IV to Form VII, was very much in evidence. Children showed extreme enthusiasm and performed so well in such a variety of roles that, rather than a dream, it became more of a nightmare to choose the final cast!

We hope that you will invite as many friends and family as possible to ensure that we have a full house for each of our two performances and offer as much support as we can for our excellent young performers.



## All About Shakespeare

In this year of 2014, we celebrate the 450th birthday of our most famous playwright, William Shakespeare. To mark this occasion, the children have each written a contribution for our book - "All About Shakespeare". The book reflects some of the inspiration children have gained from their reading, drama and English work and includes responses pupils have made to Shakespeare's work.

All classes have contributed to the book and pieces range from book reviews and biographies to spells, sonnets and love letters. These represent the variety of learning in literacy at Fairholme. Kindergarten have also contributed a group collage for the front cover.

We hope that the book will be ready for purchase at our musical production; pre-order forms may be available shortly.

My thanks go to all the children for their efforts and to the staff for their encouragement and guidance. We have very much enjoyed this writing experience and hope that you delight equally in its reading!



## Merlin Animal Rescue

This term our non-uniform day was held in support of the local charity – Merlin Animal Rescue. We had an exciting assembly when Mrs. Owen and the rescue team told us about their work and showed pictures of some of the many dogs which they have rehomed. Shadow, the greyhound, rejected as a racer and rescued

by the team, also came to assembly to see what was going on. Animal hymn and poems also featured.

£315 was raised in total, with cake sales and raffle of the lovely toy dog, Lola. Thank you to George's mum for helping with this event and all children and parents for their support.



# All Aboard the Polar Express!

At the start of the Christmas holiday, more children than ever before jumped aboard "The Polar Express" for our latest drama workshop. Much fun was had by all with singing and movement to the popular music from the much loved film, painting of trains - inside and out and dressing up as penguins,

waiters, polar bears, Father Christmas as well as dressing gowns for all! Thanks to Miss Hughes, Mrs. Cotterill and Becky for joining the fun and producing the spectacular end of workshop show. Well done to everyone who attended.

# Chinese New Year

This Year is the Chinese Year of the Horse. In our Chinese New Year Assembly, the children learned about how the years came to get their animal names and their order. The children then looked into which year they were born and whether they have any likely characteristics.



## Key Skills

Last week, Form III had a visit from Mrs. Sue who worked with the class to develop their hand strength and fine motor skills. The children had lots of fun taking part in the various activities that she had brought along with her; their handwriting work following her visit was wonderful!

## Espresso

Not to be confused with the rather potent coffee of the same name, at Fairholme 'Espresso' signifies the exciting new computer coding software being introduced in our ICT lessons. It reflects the strengthening of focus on computer programming now being recommended throughout the Key Stages.

Espresso is an online subscription which provides a progressive series of lessons in developing computer programs from Year 1 to Year 6 in a graphical and entertaining format. The children are led step by step from basic coding through to creating their own apps. It provides an excellent supplement to the other coding and programming software we currently use.

Espresso is not only educational and right at the forefront in ICT teaching, it's also great fun! Once introduced to it, the children have been clamouring for more and it is now a popular early-morning and after-school activity in the computer room.

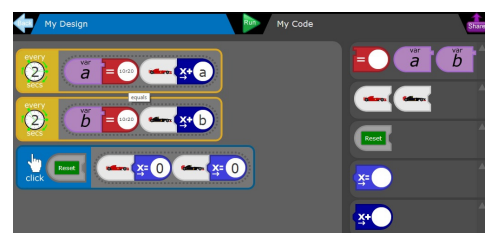
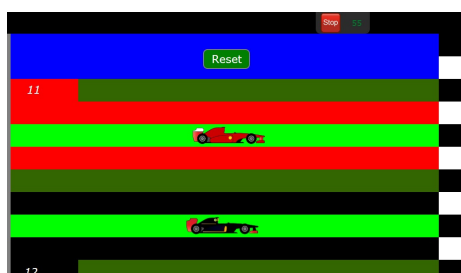
## Burns' Night

Burn's Night was once again marked this term with performance of various poems and songs by Robert Burns performed by Forms VI and VII, followed by the customary Scottish dance performed by Fairholme early birds – this time a rendition of 'Strip the Willow'!



## Testing Times

All children from Form III upwards have worked extremely hard this half term, preparing for and taking their school exams. It is a great time for children to demonstrate how much they have progressed and how much they can achieve on their own. Form VII have worked particularly hard towards entrance examinations for secondary schools and this year have not only taken various academic tests but have also taken scholarship tests in art, drama and music. There is so much talent in this year group alone, it will be a tough call to select for these much sought after awards. Well done to all of Form VII for all the hard work they have put in!



## Some important dates for your diary

Date	Forms	Event
Monday 17 February – Wednesday 19 February 10am – 3pm	Form I upwards	Sports Camp
<b>Saturday 15 March</b> <b>10am – 3pm</b>	<b>Forms VI &amp; VII, DREAM main cast &amp; windband Parents and visitors welcome</b>	<b>OPEN DAY</b> <b>A chance for prospective parents to see the school and all to preview our school production.</b>
Tuesday 25 March 3.30-4.30 (TO BE CONFIRMED)	Parents welcome	School Uniform Sale (by School and Leisure) In Dining Room
Wednesday 26 March am	ALL	Dress Rehearsal A Midsummer Night's Dream
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
Thursday 3 April – Friday 4 April, 10am – 3pm	Form I upwards	Sports Camp
Friday 25 April pm	Forms VI/VII	Theatre trip to Horrible Histories Barmy Britain, Llandudno
Thursday 1 May	Form VI/VII	Junior Maths Challenge
Tuesday 20 May, Wednesday 21 May	Forms VI & VII Forms IV & V	LAMDA Speech and Drama Examinations
Thursday 22 May Friday 23 May TO BE CONFIRMED	Piano/Singing / Instrumental students	ABRSM Music Examinations

## Current Affairs!

This term in Form I, we have been following the topic 'Houses and Homes'. Part of this has involved exploring the uses of electricity on our homes and how people's lives were different before electricity. The children named lots of appliances used in their homes which make everyday processes, such as washing and drying clothes, more convenient. We compared this experience with a story called 'Rachel's Wash Day', where washing the family's clothes took the whole day! The highlight for many of the children was

building a simple circuit in order to light a bulb. The children opted to return to this activity more than once and persevered with the fiddly crocodile clips in order to make the bulb light up.

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