



WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News



The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 2

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

27th September 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

This year we have a new Attendance Improvement Officer (AIO) allocated to the school and we will be working very closely with her to improve the school's overall attendance, which is currently below national averages. With staff working so hard to make sure that all other areas of the school's performance move towards outstanding, I am extremely disappointed that attendance still remains low.

Children of school-age who are registered at a school must, by law, attend school regularly. Regular attendance is important, not just because the law requires it but because it is the best way of ensuring that a child makes the most of the educational opportunities which are available to him or her. There may be occasions when a child has to miss school - for example, if he or she is very unwell. Any other absences should be kept to an absolute minimum. In particular, parents should avoid taking their children out of school during term-time in order to go on holiday and, in line with all Stevenage Primary Schools, any holiday taken, unless it is very exceptional circumstances, will be recorded in the register as unauthorised, which will be monitored very closely by the AIO.

Robert Staples
Headteacher

YEAR 2 WOW DAY

Year 2 had a fantastic WOW day (Friday 13th Sept) to kick off their Ramps and Round Things Topic. The children brought their scooters and had a whale of a time in the playground, scooting around and talking about the forces involved in scooting. They also conducted a scientific ramps experiment, painted in the style of Kandinsky and made amazing stop motion animations. Thank you to the Year 6 children and Miss Bridge for being such a great help. A superb day was had by all!

LOWER BUILDING PARKING

There is now ample car parking for parents to use when dropping off at/collecting children from school in both the upper and lower buildings. Please could I ask that you use the car parks as much as possible and, if you do need to park in the road, please ensure others are able to access the car park entrances and our neighbours are able to access their property. Thank you for your support.

NEW LOWER BUILDING OFFICE

We now have a new school office in the Lower Building, which is manned daily from 8.30am by Mrs Wilson, who can take messages, issue absence passes, but any money handed in there MUST be in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class on - change will not be given.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

If your child needs to attend a medical appointment during school time, where possible, please ensure you obtain a 'pink pass' from the school office beforehand (bringing your appointment card/letter with you), so that we know why your child is absent. If your child has school dinners, you will also need to book their meal for that day if they are returning in time for lunch (if you have a last minute, early morning appointment please phone school to book your child's dinner).

Where time allows, we ask that you bring your child to school before/return after their appointment.

STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE SLIPS

Thank you to all those parents who have already returned their Student Support Centre Slips to school. If you haven't already done so, please send your child's slip back on Monday - even if you do not want to receive more information, please sign and return the slip - the more we receive back, the more money school receives. The class with the most slips returned will receive a sum of money to spend on class resources of their choice.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Not sure what size school jumper to order? Samples are available to try in the school office.

ATTENDANCE AWARD

	w/c 9/9	w/c 16/9
ASH	96.3	94.3
BEECH	97.2	92.4
BIRCH	96.1	96.4
CEDAR	95.9	95.7
CHERRY	100	97.1
CHESTNUT	98.6	93.6
ELDER	98.6	96.6
ELM	93.1	97.2
HAZEL	92.2	97.8
HORNBEAM	95.6	95.6
LARCH	99.6	96.5
LIME	94.8	97.2
PINE	98	94
POPLAR	98.1	98.9
WALNUT	89.3	97.3
WHITEBEAM	98.7	97.5
WILLOW	99.4	93.5

Congratulations to Cherry Class who achieved 100% attendance on the first full week back at school.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

The school has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. A letter and nomination form will be sent out on Monday. If anyone is considering becoming a parent governor and would like more information about this important role, please let the school office know and they will put you in contact with a present member of the governing body. **Closing date for nominations is 3.30pm on Monday, 7th October.**

HALLOWEEN DISCOS

The Fairlands Faces are holding Halloween Discos for the whole school on Tuesday, 22nd October – fancy dress is optional.

Letters were sent out this week. Please send your child's ticket request into school (in an envelope clearly marked with their name, class and 'Halloween Disco'). Tickets will be sent home on Monday 14th October.

YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Open evenings are presently taking place at Stevenage secondary schools. Dates can be found on the school website.

Year 6 parents can now apply on-line at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions for their child's Secondary School place. The closing date for applications is **Thursday, 31st October**. Please contact the school office if you need help with

your application, or do not have a computer at home and would like to use one at school.

BRIDGE ROAD CHILDRENS CENTRE

The Bridge Road Childrens Centre, which is based at Woolenwick School, are running **Baby Massage Courses** starting on **27th September and 1st November**. If you would like to find out more, or would like to book a place please telephone them on 01438 202692.

WISEPAY

We are now using Wisepay to communicate with parents via email and text. **Please ensure that YOU log into Wisepay to ensure your email address and main mobile contact number are registered.** Please contact the school office if you have mislaid your Username and Password, so that we can re-issue this to you.

If you change your email address or mobile number, don't forget to inform the school office **and** change your details on Wisepay.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Please check below for the date of your child's next class assembly. Assemblies usually start **promptly**, so please try to ensure you arrive 5 minutes early, so you don't miss it!

DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/14 NEW DATES ARE SHOWN IN BOLD	
Thursday 3rd Oct 11:00 & 2.30pm	Foundation Stage Parents' Class Assembly
Monday 7 th Oct	Harvest Festival
Monday 14 th Oct 5.30-8.00pm	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Weds 16 th Oct 3.30-6.00pm	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Thursday 17th October 2.45pm	Year 5 Parents' Class Assembly
Tuesday 22nd Oct	Halloween Discos
Thursday 24th October 2.45pm	Year 2 Parents' Class Assembly
Mon 28 th Oct to Friday 1 st Nov	Half Term
Weds 30th Oct 10.00am – 12.00pm	Bridge Road Children's Centre Activity Session
Thursday 31 st Oct	Closing date for Secondary School Apps
Friday 20 th Dec	Last day of term: 2.15pm finish
Monday 6 th Jan 2014	INSET DAY