



WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

# Fairlands News



The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 6

[www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk](http://www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013

## Dear Parents and Carers

I started my second newsletter of this year with a reminder about attendance and I am really pleased to say that we are doing well so far. Our target for attendance is at least 95% and, at the Attendance Improvement Officer's last visit, the school was actually at **95%** since the beginning of term. This is great - let's keep it up!

You may have seen on the website or in your child's bag that we have produced a new guide to attendance for parents and carers, to make it clear what we expect in relation to attendance. Please read this carefully - it has a simple message: **the better your child's attendance, the better they will achieve!**

Imagine watching a film, where 10 minutes out of every hour was blanked out... you would soon lose interest, 'lose the plot', give up and switch off! This is what it is like for a child when they miss school - they very quickly 'lose the plot' of their learning journey and switch off. Let's aim for 100% attendance and keep our children switched on to learning!

**Robert Staples**  
Headteacher

### ELDER MINI-OLYMPICS

Last Wednesday, Elder class enjoyed a session of Mini-Olympics at Stevenage Leisure Centre, organised by the Stevenage Sports Partnership. They enjoyed a variety of activities including trampolining, wall climbing, cheerleading, hockey, tennis, rugby and speed stacking. The children behaved impeccably and took part enthusiastically.

### FOUNDATION STAGE VISIT PETS AT HOME

This week the children in the Foundation Stage visited Pets at Home to buy birthday presents for the Guinea-pigs. They braved the cold weather to select some lovely gifts for their furry friends. A big thank you to all the adults who came with us and for all the donations that were sent in.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Foundation Stage also had a great time this week organising a party for their guinea-pigs; Flapjack, Fudge, Boris and Ken. They sent invitations, made cards and planned party games. The guinea-pigs came into assembly and looked thrilled when everyone sang to them. A big party was then thrown for them in the hall. They were a little reluctant to join in musical statues but a fun time was had by all.

### YEAR 1 LIBRARY VISIT

Year 1 enjoyed visiting Stevenage library on Monday. Each class listened to a fantastic story and then we chose our own books from the library to read.

### PARENT FORUM

Parents/carers are invited to Parent Forum next **Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 9.00 – 10.00am**. Please come along to the Upper Building and join this informal group, to discuss your thoughts about the school.

### YEAR 6 2014

The PGL trip for next year's Year 6 has now been booked. It would be nice if we could increase the number of pupils going. If your child is interested please contact the office asap.

### UNIFORM REMINDER

Just a reminder that black boots are not part of our school uniform. Children are welcome wear boots to and from school, but should bring a pair of black shoes or trainers to change into when they arrive.

### NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

Well done to everyone who took part in our non-school uniform day last Friday. We raised £377 for Children in Need.

### CHRISTMAS PRESENT ROOM

The Fairlands Faces will be running their popular Christmas Present Room during the school day on **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December**, and would be really grateful if any parents/carers could help out on the day – even if only for part of it. Please contact the school office if you can help.

### HAND, FOOT & MOUTH

There have been a couple of cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth reported in school. This a viral condition which is contagious for about a week after the symptoms show; cold-like symptoms, a non-itchy rash that develops on the hands and feet and painful mouth ulcers. Children only need to be absent from school with this condition whilst they feel unwell – you do not need to wait for the rash/ulcers to clear up before they return to school.

### IS YOUR CHILD STARTING PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 2014/15?

If your child was born between **1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010** please apply now for a primary place for the school year 2013-14.

The quickest and easiest way to apply is on-line at [www.hertsdirect/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect/admissions) - **Application deadline 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014**. Parents who do not have the facility to apply on-line are welcome to come into the office and use a computer. If you would like help with your application, please contact the office first to arrange a convenient time to come in. You are advised to put up to three choices of school, so please come prepared.

### STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION

The Stevenage Credit Union is a savings club which collects from a number of schools in Stevenage and enables the children to learn about cash handling at an early age. They can plan what they do with their pocket money - perhaps save for a holiday, christmas or family birthdays.

We also encourage parents to join as adult members. There is no limit to the amount you can save and you can withdraw the money whenever you want it.

The Credit Union is run in the **dining hall** in the **upper building** every **Tuesday at 3.15pm** – come along this week and find out more.

### ATTENDANCE AWARD

	w/c 4/11	w/c 11/11
ASH	89.7	88
BEECH	97	89.6
BIRCH	90	96.1
CEDAR	91.7	94.5
CHERRY	96.9	94.6
CHESTNUT	98.1	94.2
ELDER	96.3	98.3
ELM	95.5	94.8
HAZEL	95.7	95
<b>HORNBEAM</b>	98.6	<b>99.3</b>
LARCH	96.7	94.2
LIME	94.4	94.4
PINE	98.4	98
POPLAR	98.5	98.5
WALNUT	98.7	93.7
WHITEBEAM	95	95
<b>WILLOW</b>	<b>98.8</b>	98.2

### DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/14 NEW DATES ARE SHOWN IN BOLD

<b>Weds 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 9.00 – 10.00am</b>	<b>Parent Forum</b>
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00 -11.00am 2.00 – 3.00 pm	Reception Christmas Performances
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9.00am – 1.00pm	Whole school to Cinderella Pantomime
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30 – 11.00am 1.00 – 2.30pm	Nursery Activity Morning & Afternoon
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2.00 – 3.00pm 6.00 – 7.00pm	Year 2 Christmas Performances
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30 – 10.30am	Year 2 to St Nicholas – Christmas Journey
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 1 Christmas Activity Day
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec <b>11.00am Yrs 3 &amp; 5 2.15pm Yrs 4 &amp; 6</b>	Carol Concerts
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	FS & KS1 Christmas Party Lunch
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 3.30 – 5.00pm	Christmas Fayre
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Christmas Party Lunch
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 2-6 Talent Show
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term: 2.15pm finish
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 14	INSET DAY
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 14	Return to school