

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 1

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

12th September 2008

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Fairlands! The new school year has started peacefully, if a little 'damply' thanks to all the terrible weather we are enjoying at the moment! Welcome also to Miss Verlander our new Assistant Headteacher and Year 2 teacher, and Mrs Foster, our new Year 4 teacher.

The teachers have been working very hard over the summer to get all the classrooms ready for the children - we are still continuing our major programme of refurbishment in the Lower Building, so there will be some movement between classrooms during the autumn term as the decorators make their way around the school. I am sure that Miss Verlander will manage the proceedings expertly to minimise disruption to the children!

Our SEAL theme this term is 'New Beginnings' - time to think about making a fresh start and the feelings that come with experiencing things for the first time. We will be focusing on this in assembly and the children will follow up this work back in their classrooms.

Robert Staples
Headteacher

PARENTLINEPLUS WORKSHOP FOR NURSERY PARENTS

On **Tuesday, 16th September**, Sara Hassell, Parentlineplus, and Mrs Yendell are running two one-hour workshops for our nursery parents, which aim to help them support their children at school. Please write your name on the list in the nursery if you would like to attend.

PARENT FORUM

The first Parent Forum of the school year will be held from **9.10am** on **Thursday, 18th September** in the **KS2 building**.

This is a great opportunity for parents / carers to meet and discuss their views of the school (good or bad!) with the headteacher. Please come along and join them for coffee and a chat!

A creche will be available if required - please let the office know.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Just a reminder that school uniform should now only be ordered on-line - visit www.YourSchoolUniform.com or click on the link on our website

Parents / carers are very welcome to come into school and use one of our computers, if you do not have one at home. Alternatively, try Stevenage Library, where they offer free use of their computers.

FAMILY LEARNING CLASSES

This year we will be continuing to offer tuition in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). These women's classes are FREE and all are welcome, whatever your level of proficiency in English.

The classes are run jointly by Mrs Smith (Ethnic Minority Support Teacher) and an ESOL tutor from North Herts College.

As well as providing English Language tuition, they also give a useful insight into British culture and provide a chance for you to share your own culture with others. At present we have members from Africa, Bangladesh, Holland, India, Poland, Turkey and Hong Kong. We frequently discuss school issues and the curriculum, helping members to support their children's learning.

Classes and enrolment will begin on **Tuesday, 16th September at 9am**, in the Learning Room.

TOY LIBRARY

Fairlands' Toy Library has now re-opened following the summer break. The library runs on **Monday mornings** between **9.15am and 12.00** in the **KS2 Learning Room**. If you are a parent or carer of a child up to five years of age please pop along to look at the selection of toys and resources available. If you would like to join the library, membership for a year is £2.50 per family. Toys can then be taken home for a small weekly fee.

**PARENTLINEPLUS
'DEALING WITH ANGER'**

Does your home sometimes feel like a battlefield? This group will help you learn how to deal positively with anger:

Sara Hassell, Parentlineplus, is running a 6 week course called **'Dealing with Anger'**, on **Wednesday evenings, at Fairlands School, 700-9.00pm**, commencing **10th October** :

Please book through the school office or telephone 01707 630100 to book via Parentlineplus.

Want to know more about **Parentlineplus**? Follow the links from our website : Click on **'Our Community'**, then **'Extended Schools Services'** and scroll down to click on **'Parent Support and Family Learning'**. This will take you to the Parentlineplus website.

TESCO VOUCHERS

Although we have sent this year's order off, we can still redeem vouchers towards next year's scheme. Please have a good look at home for any blue Tesco vouchers and send them in asap, to be posted off by the end of next week.

CONTACTPOINT

ContactPoint is part of the work the Government and Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership are doing to make sure that all children and young people fulfil their potential, whoever they are, and no matter what problems they may face.

At the moment, it can take a long time for a professional (e.g. a doctor, a teacher or a social worker) to find out who else is working with the same child, which means a child and their family may have to wait a long time to get the help they need.

This is where ContactPoint will help. It will be an online directory which will hold the names and basic details of every child in England from 0-18 and will only hold basic details, like their name, age and where they live. It will be introduced in Hertfordshire in 2009 and will also show the contact details of other professionals who are currently working with the child. It will **not** hold more detailed reports such as case notes or school reports.

ContactPoint will be used by professionals who work with children and young people and need it to do their jobs. Everyone who uses it must pass strict security checks and will be properly trained. They will need a password, PIN and security fob in order to access it and the system will be monitored closely to make sure it is used properly.

You can find out more about ContactPoint and other ways children's services are working together to help children, young people and their families by visiting www.hertsdirect.org/caf or <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/contactpoint/>

DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009

Tuesday, 16 th Sept 9.00am (crèche) & 12.45pm (no crèche)	ParentlinePlus Workshop : How to Support Your Child in Nursery
Thursday, 18 th Sept 9.10am	Parent Forum
Thursday, 18th Sept	Year 6 to Crucial Crew
Thursday, 18th Sept 3.30pm – 4.00pm	Upper KS2 Parent Welcome Meeting
Thursday, 25th Sept	School Photographer
Monday, 27th – Friday, 31st October	Half Term



The Wakey Wakey Club!

Our popular Breakfast Club is held in the dining hall and runs every day, Monday to Friday.

Your child will receive a healthy breakfast and professional childcare in a safe and friendly environment, giving them an opportunity to socialise with other children from all areas of the school.

The club is open to all Fairlands' children from Nursery to Year 6 and runs in the dining hall from 8.00am until registration (Foundation & KS1 children are walked to their classrooms)

Cost : £3.00 for first child, siblings £2.70
(Free school meals £2.50)

No need to book – just turn up at 8.00am