

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 4

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

24th October 2008

Dear Parents and Carers

I can hardly believe it is the end of this half term already. It was good to see so many parents attending Parent/Teacher Consultations last week – please blame Mr Horner for the 'mooring cow'... it was all his idea...!!

We also had a wonderful Halloween Disco last night – thank you to all the children for supporting the school by coming along. You did all look terribly scary though – I'm glad that you don't look like that normally!

Have a great half term, and we look forward to seeing you all back at school on **Monday, 3rd November.**

Robert Staples
Headteacher

HARVEST FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY

The children had their Harvest Festival Assembly last week, during which the Rev. Geoff Tickner gave a Harvest Message. We were also delighted to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Stevenage, Councillor Michael and Mrs Deborah Patston, who thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings.

Thank you for all the food donations, which have been packaged up and delivered to people within the local community, from whom we have received many letters and cards of thanks.

NATIONAL FILM WEEK

This week the children were treated to a visit to Cineworld to celebrate National Film Week. On Tuesday, KS2 watched Charlotte's Web and, on Friday, Reception and KS1 went to see Dr Seuss. It was a privilege to see how sensibly the children walked to and from the cinema – they were excellent ambassadors for Fairlands and did us proud!

YEAR 5 TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL

On Thursday, a team of 10 Year 5 children took part in a Tag Rugby Festival at Stevenage Rugby Club.

We played four games and they were all very close, considering many of our opponents were Year 6!

The team played very well and set a high standard of sportsmanship.

BANNED ITEMS!

IMPORTANT! Please be aware that we have decided that there are a couple of things that are causing a few problems in school, so we have decided to place a ban on them:

Firstly, we have had some confusion over whether children are allowed to bring in toys for playtime. Invariably they get lost or broken and this has caused some arguments between children when, for example, Yugi-Oh cards get mixed up or go missing. **We have now decided that children should not bring in ANY TOYS for playtime.** This includes collecting cards and small pocket toys, bouncing balls etc. We have recently spent a significant amount of money stocking up on playground equipment, so there is plenty for the children to do at lunch and break. We would really appreciate it if you could help us by reminding your child about this rule.

Secondly, we have decided that **SCOOTERS should not be brought to school.** They are causing lots of problems in that we do not have the facility to store them safely and unfortunately some children have been riding them on the school premises, including in the car park, despite several reminders not to do so.

BOREATON PARK

A reminder to all YEAR 5 parents that there is a meeting for parents and pupils on Thursday, 6th November at 3.30pm in the Upper Hall, to find out more about next year's school journey.

ATTENDANCE AWARD



Congratulations to Hazel, who won the award w/c 6th October with 97.8% attendance and again last week, jointly with Hawthorn, with 98.3%.

DINNER MONEY

School Dinner money next half term is as follows :

£1.75 per day / £8.75 per week / £61.25 for the half term.

Nursery Lunch Club : £3.45 per day (£1.85 for those entitled to Free School Meals)

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Thank you to all those parent/carers who have completed and returned the Data Collection Sheets sent home via their eldest child. If you haven't already done so, please check and return your forms to school as soon as possible after half term.

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY APPEAL

Poppies have been taken round the classes for children to make donations this week – we will also be bringing them round during the first week back after the holiday.

TWITTER

Those of you who signed up for Twitter will have noticed that you haven't received one for some time now! Unfortunately, this free service is no longer available in Europe! We are now looking for a replacement service as we feel it was a very useful way of communicating with parents.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Tom and Sam Joy, George Thompson, Marley Heath, Jay Scrivener, Daniel Day and Bentley Hills (who all play for Symonds Green FC Under 10's), on their second round victory over Letchworth Garden City Eagles. The team will play Bengo Tigers on 23rd November in the next round and we look forward to hearing news of the result!

The team are looking for new players – anyone interested please contact Jamie on 07810 825327.

DCSF CONSULTATION ON HANDLING PARENTS' COMPLAINTS

On 24th September, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced an imminent consultation on a new way of handling parents' complaints to their child's school. The consultation will run for eight weeks, closing 21st November.

The Children's Plan committed the Government to look at ways of improving the current arrangements for parents' complaints. The consultation invites comments on handling parents' complaints, affecting their individual child, to their child's school including those which concern bullying. The DCSF is asking for views on ways to improve: handling of complaints at school level; the place of mediation services to resolve disagreements early on; and possible new independent arrangements to consider complaints that cannot be resolved at school level.

Detailed proposals are in a document which you can access via the Parentlineplus website www.parentlineplus.org.uk/dsfcomplaints

MORRISONS – LET'S GROW

We are collecting Morrisons' vouchers – you will be issued with one voucher for every £10 you spend in store until 6th November. We can redeem the vouchers for gardening equipment for the school.

DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009

Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st Oct	Half Term
Friday, 14 th November 7.30 start	Friends of Fairlands Quiz Night
Saturday, 6 th December 11am – 2pm	Friends of Fairlands Christmas Fayre
Friday, 19 th December	Last Day of Term 2.15 finish
Monday, 5 th January, 2009	INSET Day
Tuesday, 6 th January, 2009	Return to School
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th Feb	Half Term
Friday, 3 rd April	Last day of Term 2.15 finish
Monday, 20 th April	INSET Day
Tuesday, 21 st April	Return to School