

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 8

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

16th January 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

After an eventful week, I have to start with a profound apology on behalf of the school and the governing body for the temporary closure of the Upper Building due to boiler failure. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation during this period – once again, it shows that we can all pull together in a crisis! The staff have all been in and have been doing lots of physical jobs to keep warm, or have been giving much needed extra support in the Lower Building and as a result much has been achieved in the school.

I am, however, delighted to announce that the boiler part has now arrived and **the Upper Building will be back up & running as normal from Monday 19th January.**

Robert Staples
Headteacher

THANK YOU!



I hope I am allowed two thank you's this week:

Firstly, thanks to **staff in the Upper Building** – for coming in despite the cold and getting so many jobs done.

But, importantly, our second big thank you goes to **children and staff in the Lower Building** – it hasn't been easy coming in when your older brother or sister is having the day off, or indeed when your fellow teachers are having time out of class! Thank you!

ATTENDANCE AWARD



Well done to Laburnum, who won the award with 95.8% attendance w/c 8th Dec, to Larch, who won with a very impressive 99.1% w/c 15th Dec and to Cedar, who had 98.3% attendance last week – glad to see the award going to a KS1 class at last!

THANK YOU FROM 'KEECH COTTAGE'

We have received a letter from the Keech Cottage Children's Hospital, thanking us for the £300 raised from the collections taken at our Christmas performances. Thank you very much to everyone who donated to this worthy cause.

IS YOUR CHILD STARTING NURSERY IN 2009-09?

If your child was born between 1st September 2005 and 31st August 2006 please apply **now** for a nursery place for the school year 2009-2010.

The quickest and easiest way to apply is on-line at www.hertsdirect/admissions - **Application deadline 20th January 2009.**

Parents who do not have the facility to apply on-line can come into school and use a school computer (KS2 building). Mrs Dunthorne will be available to help! You **must** enter **3 different nursery school choices on the application**, so please ensure you have made this decision **before** you come in.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS APPLYING FOR / ACCEPTING SCHOOL PLACES

Have you registered for a school place on a Continuing Interest (CI) List? This year, once you are given a place from your CI list, the place you currently hold is automatically given to someone else.

So...

- Only list schools you really want in the order you want them.
- Don't forget to contact your local admissions and transport team if you want to come off the CI list, if you decide you are happy with the school you have been offered.

For help or advice please contact the Customer Service Centre on 737500.

FAMILY LEARNING ENGLISH CLASSES

These sessions are held every week on **Tuesday mornings** from **9 – 11am**, in the Learning Room (Upper Building).

The classes are for all adult speakers of languages other than English, who wish to improve their English skills. They cater for all – from complete beginners to advanced learners. They also help parents to keep in touch with school matters, to help their children's learning and well-being. Many new friendships have been made over the 8 years we have been running, and we have learnt a great deal about each other's languages and cultures too. (See our latest display in the school entrance hall!)

Mrs Judy Smith (Fairlands' EMA Support Teacher) and Mrs Manjula Niven (ESOL tutor from N. Herts College) run these relaxed and friendly classes together. They continue to be completely free of charge and can lead to an appropriate ESOL qualification if required.

All are welcome! Please see Mrs Smith or ask at the office for further details.

SPRINGMEADOWS HOLIDAY CLUB

Springmeadows Afterschool Club, which is run at Barclay School, are pleased to announce that they will be running holiday clubs for 4 – 12 year olds, commencing February half term. Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6.15pm at a cost of £2.50 per hour.

Activities will include den making, clay, junk modelling, football, face painting, t-shirt decorating and much more. Contact Louise Prior on 07738 570321 or visit www.springmeadows.co.uk for more details.

PARENTLINE PLUS

We are delighted to inform you that **Sara Hassell**, our linked Parentline Plus worker, is now available again to talk to parents/carers who need support with parenting. To contact Sara phone 01707 630100 or email her at sarah@parentlineplus.org.uk

Sara will soon be running a new '**Dealing with Anger**' course – please keep an eye out for posters and book your place on this very popular workshop.

PARENT SUPPORT WORKER

My name is Margareta Allison and I would like to introduce myself as your new Parent Support Worker, based at Barclay School but employed through North Stevenage Extended Schools Consortium.

My aim is to provide information for you as parents, grandparents or carers, who may be struggling with the demands of being a parent, grandparent or carer for various reasons. I can signpost you to relevant agencies (such as Parentline Plus), set up and advertise parent courses and support groups, offer family learning opportunities or provide information which may help with those demands. I am looking forward to my new role and if there are services that you are interested in or would like to access, please contact me as follows:

allisonm@barclay.herts.sch.uk 01438 232221 / 07825 223125 or see our website: www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/stevenage

DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009

Tuesday, 20 th January	Closing date for 2009-10 Nursery Applications
Monday, 16 th to Friday, 20 th February	Half Term
Friday, 27 th February	Friends of Fairlands' Quiz Night
Monday, 2 nd March	Secondary School Allocation Day
Wednesday, 4 th March	World Maths Day
Thursday, 5 th March	World Book Day
Monday, 9 th March 3.30pm – 6.00pm	Parent / Teacher Consultations
Wednesday, 11 th March 5.30pm – 8.00pm	Parent / Teacher Consultations
Thursday, 2 nd April	Friends of Fairlands' Easter Disco
Friday, 3 rd April	Last Day of Term : 2.15pm finish
Monday, 6 th April to Friday, 17 th April	Easter Holiday
Monday, 20 th April	INSET
Tuesday, 21 st April	Return to school
Monday, 25 th to Friday 29 th May	Half Term
Friday, 17 th July	Last Day of Term : 2.15pm Finish
Wednesday, 2 nd Sept	INSET Day
Thursday, 3 rd September	Return to School

