

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 3

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9th October 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Last year, our absence figures were very high – in total **our children missed 7.7% of possible sessions**, which is **way above the national target of 5.9%**. This is incredibly high and we need to work together as a school this year to improve things.

Some of this absence was, of course, totally unavoidable. However, a significant amount was due to holidays being taken in term time and odd days of absence.

I am sure you know already that the school strongly discourages children taking holidays during term time and I would like to remind you that this has a seriously negative effect on your child's learning.

However, having analysed absence so far this year, it is interesting that much of the absence is coming from children having **one or two days off for sickness here & there**. So far this term, 47 pupils have had a total of 53 odd days' absence. To help turn things around, I would ask that **if a child is feeling a bit under the weather due to a common cold or cough, PLEASE SEND THEM IN!** We will look after them and send them home if they get much worse. So often, a child will feel a bit rough in the morning but will perk up within a couple of hours and be much better off at school with all the distractions of the busy day. If you aren't sure, please feel free to ring the school office who will help you decide what to do based on your child's symptoms.

Robert Staples
Headteacher

THANK YOU!



This week our thanks go to **Mrs Biggs and Mrs Denis**, who have been busy getting everything ready for our Harvest Assembly!

We are really looking forward to a special assembly on Monday! **Don't forget to send in fresh produce on Monday morning.**

ATTENDANCE AWARD

	% CLASS ATTENDANCE	
	w/c 21/9	w/c 28/9
ASH	93.1	95.9
BEECH	94.8	91.4
CHERRY	94.4	97.4
CHESTNUT	95	94.6
ELDER	89.7	95.7
ELM	92	88
HAZEL	89.4	96.2
HAWTHORN	90.4	97.1
HORNBEAM	93.8	93.1
LARCH	93.7	97.3
LIME	93.6	88.9
LABURNUM	95.7	93.5

MONEY WEEK

Throughout the week, the children have been learning about spending, saving, budgeting, charity and the importance of money. The children were also asked to come up with their own 'money making ideas'. Yesterday, each year group set up a stall in the hall and sold their 'ideas' at 50p per item. The winning group will be announced shortly.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

We currently have one vacancy for a parent governor at Fairlands. All you need to be a parent governor is an interest in your children's education and the way in which the school is run.

Letters have been sent home asking for parents to stand for election - please think seriously about nominating yourself and do not hesitate to speak to Mr Staples or a member of the governing body during parent / teacher consultations next week. Nomination forms to be returned to school by **3.15 on Wednesday, 14th October.**

PARENT / TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent / Teacher Consultations will be taking place for most of the school on **Monday, 12th (3.30 – 6.00pm) and Tuesday, 13th October (5.30 – 8.00pm).**

Elm Class appointments are on **Tuesday, 13th and Thursday, 15th October** and **Chestnut Class** will have their appointments on **Monday, 2nd and Tuesday, 3rd November.**

This is an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and discuss with them how your child is progressing so far this year. Appointment boards are in the Upper Building entrance area - **please come in and sign up.**

There will be a drop-in centre available in the dining hall, where your child/children can wait whilst you meet with their teacher. The Friends of Fairlands will be selling tea/coffee in both halls.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

On Monday, the eldest child in each family at Fairlands took home a white envelope containing Data Collection Sheets and Annual Parental Consent Forms. Please ensure you check the information we hold on file for you is correct and sign and return all forms to school as soon as possible.

If you haven't already done so, please could you also send back the **Medical Information Questionnaire** that was sent home at the start of term – even if it's just to tell us whether your child is left or right handed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Thomas Hawkins (Elder) and Sam Hawkins (Ash), who both attend Marriotts Gym Club and have gained their first gym badge.

FLORA COOKING FOR SCHOOLS

Thank you for registering your Flora points on-line. We have collected a total of 340, which means we can claim a value of £68 worth of cooking equipment for the school.

MORRISONS LET'S GROW

If you shop at Morrisons, don't forget to collect your vouchers and send them into school, to help us claim free gardening equipment to help us with out allotment. Vouchers are being issued in store until Sunday, 1st November.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A FREE COMPUTER?

If you are entitled to free school meals you will be able to take advantage of a government scheme which is due to be launched later this year. The scheme is aimed at making sure that children are not disadvantaged because their parents cannot afford to keep pace with technology or afford broadband connection. Parents will be given vouchers which can be exchanged for computer bundles.

We will keep you posted of developments as we hear them. In the meantime, make sure that you have registered your entitlement to free school meals even if your children do not wish to have them.

DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010 NEW DATES ARE SHOWN IN BOLD

Monday, 12 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly
Monday, 12 th October 3.30pm – 6.00pm	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Tuesday, 13 th October	Year 3/4 Roman Activity Day
Tuesday, 13th October 3.30pm	Boreatton Park 2010 Mtg for Yr 5 Parents & Pupils
Tuesday, 13 th October 5.30pm – 8.00pm	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Monday, 26 th to Friday, 30 th October	Half Term
Monday, 2nd Nov 3.30pm – 6.00pm	Chestnut Class Parent /Teacher Consultations
Tuesday, 3rd Nov 5.30pm – 8.00pm	
Wednesday, 4th Nov FS & KS1 : 5.00-6.00pm KS2 : 6.45-8.00pm	Friends of Fairlands Halloween Disco
Friday, 18 th December	Last day of term : 2.15pm finish
Monday, 4 th January	INSET Day
Tuesday, 5 th January	Return to school
Monday, 15 th February to Friday, 19 th February	Half Term
Thursday, 1 st April	Last day of term : 2.15pm finish
Monday, 19 th April	INSET Day
Tuesday, 20 th April	Return to school
Monday, 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Monday 10 th to Friday 14 th May	Year 6 SATS
Monday, 31 st May to Friday, 4 th June	Half Term