

# WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

# Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 7

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

4<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Friends of Fairlands Christmas Fayre takes place tomorrow from 11.00am until 2.00pm. The 'Friends' have worked very hard over the last few weeks to make this event a success, so please support them by coming along to join in the fun.

I am pleased to inform you that Fairlands was recently awarded 'Emerged Status' for **Quality in Study Support** - one of only six schools in Hertfordshire to attain this quality mark! This means that the school has been recognised for the high quality of out of school learning that takes place, including the breakfast club, lunchtime clubs and after school activities that we provide. I am really pleased that we have been awarded this as it shows how quickly the school is moving forward - you might remember that this was identified as an area for development when Ofsted visited in February 2008. We have improved so much because of all the hard work of the staff in the school - so Well Done everybody!

**Robert Staples**  
Headteacher

### YEAR 5/6 TRIP TO RAF HENDON

On Monday, Years 5 & 6 visited RAF Hendon as part of their topic on 'Conflict'. The children had a fantastic time investigating the different aircraft that were used in World Wars 1 and 2. They also discovered more about the science behind aviation through a range of hands-on experiments and activities. A thoroughly good time was had by the children and teachers alike.

### COLD WEATHER CLOTHING

Now that the weather is wetter and colder, please ensure your child comes to school each day with a coat and suitable footwear, which they will need to wear during playtime and lunchtime, when they can be outside for up to an hour at a time.

### NSPCC SPONSORED EVENT

Thank you to everyone who took part in the NSPCC Sponsored Events. We raised an amazing **£1,014.48** for this very worthy cause.

### CHILDREN IN NEED

Our last non-school uniform day was a great success, raising £161.80 for Children in Need. Well done to everyone for taking part.

### POPPY APPEAL

The Royal British Legion would like to thank everyone who donated to this year's Poppy Appeal - our donations totalled £45.49.

### THANK YOU!



A special thank-you goes this week to the Friends of Fairlands who have worked so hard to get everything ready for the Christmas Fayre. Your efforts are much appreciated!

### ATTENDANCE AWARD

|                 | % CLASS ATTENDANCE |             |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                 | w/c 16/11          | w/c 23/11   |
| ASH             | 86.6               | 89.3        |
| BEECH           | 96                 | 94.8        |
| CHERRY          | 96.2               | 94.2        |
| CHESTNUT        | 96.2               | 95.8        |
| ELDER           | 93.3               | 90          |
| ELM             | 94.8               | 81.7        |
| HAZEL           | 93.5               | 85.2        |
| <b>HAWTHORN</b> | <b>97.9</b>        | 87.1        |
| HORNBEAM        | 92.9               | 95.8        |
| <b>LARCH</b>    | 96.8               | <b>92.7</b> |
| LIME            | 90.4               | 90.8        |
| LABURNUM        | 95.2               | 93          |

### 'IT'S A DAD'S LIFE' SORTING OUT ARGUMENTS IN THE FAMILY

**Dads - do you want help keeping the peace at home?** Then this 7 week Parentlineplus workshop with Sara Hassell is for you. **Monday evenings, 7.30pm - 9.30pm** at Fairlands Primary commencing **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January**. For more information or to book a place call Sara on 07805 523480.

### IS YOUR CHILD STARTING NURSERY IN 2010-11?

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007 you need to apply for a nursery place for the school year 2010-2011 by **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December** by visiting [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions)

**Parents who do not have the facility to apply on-line can come to the school office and use a school computer .**

### IS YOUR CHILD STARTING PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 2010-11?

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006 please apply now for a reception place for the school year 2010-2011. Information has already been sent out to parents. The quickest and easiest way to apply is on-line at [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions) - **Application deadline 29th January 2010.**

### NESTLE BOX TOPS

Please send in any Box Tops you have at home by next Tuesday, as there is a bonus banking period coming up.

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR STEVENAGE CHILDREN – THE MAYOR’S APPEAL

Following an appeal from Stevenage Social Services last year, many of you very kindly donated gifts that were passed to children who may not otherwise have had Christmas presents. More than 150 children received a present and the overwhelming response showed that we have a fantastic, caring community in Stevenage.

SBC are hoping to rely on your generosity again this year. Christmas can be a difficult time for everybody and vulnerable children often miss out altogether on the fun side of the season. Statistics show that problems in the family are also heightened at this time. It may come as a surprise to some people that there are children in our town experiencing hardship and neglect.

If you would like to donate a Christmas present for a child in Stevenage, please take your gift – unwrapped – to the reception at SBC Daneshill Danestrete Stevenage Town Centre by Monday 14 December. Every single gift – large or small, whether it’s a toy, game, book, sweets, clothing or toiletries – will go directly to a child in Stevenage.

### ON-LINE PARENTS’ SCHOOL NETWORK

A new online parents’ school network has been recently launched for all secondary schools in the UK by Netmums, working with DadTalk.

This means that Stevenage secondary schools have got their own forum on Netmums – a local board where parents can post new messages and reply to others. It’s all about parents keeping in touch with each other and with what’s happening at the school. All sorts of topics can be discussed from the after school activities your child does to how you motivate your child to do their homework!

If you would like to join in, go to [www.netmums.com/schoolnetwork](http://www.netmums.com/schoolnetwork) and from there you will be able to find your child’s secondary school listed.

### HELP WITH YOUR FAMILY’S FINANCE

**WaterSure** is a national scheme introduced by the Government in 2000, which allows households who are on a water meter and meet the criteria to have their water bills capped so they don’t have to worry about the amount of water they use or about the cost!

To apply, you must be on a water meter and in receipt of a benefit (*means tested*) with one or both of the following conditions:

- Use more water than average because you have 3 or more children in your family
- Have a health/medical condition that means you use more water than usual

If you have answered yes to any of the above, please contact Veolia Water on 0845 769 7985 or at [helpinghands@veoliawater.co.uk](mailto:helpinghands@veoliawater.co.uk)

### HCC WANT YOUR VIEWS

Hertfordshire County Council is proposing to expand and refurbish The Barclay School in Stevenage. A public exhibition is being held to provide further information and to seek your views about the proposals before they are submitted to the local planning authority.

The exhibition will be held on **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 5pm to 9pm** at **Barclay School**, and will also describe the wider Building Schools for the Future process and proposals for Stevenage. Representatives from the county council will be available to answer questions and provide details of how to submit formal comments. For more information visit [www.hertsdirect.org/bsf](http://www.hertsdirect.org/bsf)