

# WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

# Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 10

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

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## Dear Parents and Carers

I am very pleased to tell you that the school has been invited as one of three schools nationally to participate in an important research project, led by the DCSF and the National College for School Leadership, on Leading Curriculum Innovation. Last week, two researchers visited the school to find out more about how we have developed our new topic curriculum and implemented recommendations from the Rose Review.

I received a very complimentary letter in return – *'What you are doing at Fairlands is quite remarkable... we were immensely impressed with the social outreach support and guidance you are offering parents and children at your school...we wish you and your staff every success in your exciting curriculum developments'*.

It is certainly very encouraging to receive such recognition of how well we are doing. Well done & thank you to everyone for working so hard on the new curriculum and 'making it happen'!

**Robert Staples**  
Headteacher

## IMPORTANT REQUEST TO PARENTS

For the safety of the children and for fire regulations, please can I remind any parents who come into the building during school time, not to allow other adults to enter the building without first contacting the school office. It is the responsibility of the office to let visitors in, in order to know who is in the building. This is very important for safeguarding the children in school.

## THANK YOU!



This week's thank you goes to  
**ALL THE TEACHERS!**

As I have said above, they have been working very hard on developing our new approach to the curriculum this year. This involves a lot of commitment and creativity, and they have thrown themselves into the project wholeheartedly – thank you for everything you have done to move us forward in this area!

## PARENT FORUM

Following several requests, the next **Parent Forum** meeting will be an **evening meeting**, on **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 6.00 to 7.00pm**, in the Upper Building. This gives working parents an opportunity to come along and meet with me to discuss their views, good or bad, on the school. I will also be joined by Teresa Callaghan, Chair of Governors. We look forward to meeting you all!

## ATTENDANCE AWARD

	% CLASS ATTENDANCE	
	w/c 11/01	w/c 18/01
ASH	87.7	90.3
BEECH	93.3	95.3
CHERRY	87.9	94.6
CHESTNUT	94.8	90.4
ELDER	90	92.1
<b>ELM</b>	<b>91.2</b>	<b>98.3</b>
HAZEL	89.2	97.1
HAWTHORN	88.8	94.4
HORNBEAM	85.8	91.7
LARCH	96.4	94.5
<b>LIME</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>95.6</b>
LABURNUM	89.6	95.2

## STUDENT SUPPORT SLIPS

Thank you to all the parents who sent back their signed Student Support slips. We had a fantastic response and will receive a £150 to our school funds. The 2 classes who returned the highest percentage were **Chestnut (80%) and Elm (83%)** and will each receive £50 to spend on classroom resources of their choice!

## CONGESTION ON THE PATHS

All the footpaths become very congested at the start and end of the school day – where possible, please could I ask parents/carers to be considerate to all other users and try not to block the walkways. Our re-development of the entranceways is due to be completed over the Easter holiday – this should greatly improve congestion, but until then... please think carefully about where you stop to catch up with each other's news!

## HELP US WITH HEADLICE

Re-infestations are becoming troublesome, but if everyone takes note of the preventative measures, then the problem should be dramatically reduced. The local Health Authority recommends the following preventative method and suggests that parents should take the responsibility of checking their child's hair regularly.

**The wet-combing method is the recommended preventative method.**

Head lice may be cleared over a two-week period by the following method:

- Wash the hair in the normal way with an ordinary shampoo.
- Using lots of hair conditioner and while the hair is very wet, comb through the hair from the roots with a fine tooth comb. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with every stroke, and do this over a pale surface, such as a paper towel or the bath.
- Clear the comb of lice between each stroke.
- Wet lice find it difficult to escape, and hair, which is slippery from conditioner, makes it hard for them to keep a grip – so removal with the comb is easier.
- If you find any lice, then repeat this routine every 3-4 days for 2 weeks, so that any lice emerging from the eggs are removed before they can spread.

## THE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

- Looking for childcare?
- Do you need any help, advice or details of local childminders?
- Free nursery places – where can you find out more?
- Where can you get details of parent support organisations?

The Family Information Service is only a phone call away from free, friendly, impartial information/guidance on a full range of childcare, children's services and resources across Hertfordshire.

Visit [www.hertsdirect.org/fsd](http://www.hertsdirect.org/fsd) or call 0300 123 4052

## HOME ACCESS GRANT

The Government has launched a scheme called the 'Home Access' grant. The grant will make funding accessible for eligible children to have access to a home computer. More information will be sent home to parents shortly. In the meantime, if you would like to know more about this grant please contact the Home Access Helpline on 0333 200 1004.

## TESCOS' VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOLS

It's back! We're delighted to announce that Tesco for Schools & Clubs is back for 2010 with vouchers available in store and with online grocery orders from Monday 1st of March! Please ask all your family and friends to collect vouchers for us and send them in.

## FLORA COOKING WITH SCHOOLS

Cooking with Schools is back and they're giving away loads of free cooking equipment to schools. Special packs with tokens on are on the shelves now – you can register your tokens on line at [www.floracookingwithschools.com](http://www.floracookingwithschools.com) or send the token in (please wash it first!).

## BIKEABILITY

Bikeability is the Cycling Proficiency for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads. Home Counties Cycling are offering this life skill to children at a reduced cost of **£30 per student** (usually £40), for Level 2 Cycle Training, **if the course is completed before 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2010**. For more details please contact Paul Savage on 07799 462537 or at [paul@homecountiescycling.co.uk](mailto:paul@homecountiescycling.co.uk) Please be aware that we will not be running our own cycling proficiency course at Fairlands School this year.