

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 11

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

12th February 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

Amazing news! We are sending Mrs Trafford & Mr Tweeddell off on an all-expenses paid, holiday of a lifetime in Bogotá, Colombia next week! The project has been organised by the local authority as part of its Teachers' International Professional Development Programme and Fairlands has been very lucky to be selected to send two out of the ten teachers from Hertfordshire that are going. They will actually be working very hard, visiting schools and meeting with government education ministers and I am looking forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return back safely!

I am also very proud to tell you that we will be sending a group of parents to Parliament on the first Wednesday back, to talk to government ministers about how to improve support for parents. The opportunity has been organised by Sara Hassell, from Parentline+, so thanks goes to her. This is another great example of how we are making a positive contribution to the wider, national community and spreading the good work of Fairlands!

I sincerely hope you have a restful half term break and look forward to seeing you all back at school at **8.50am on Monday, 22nd February.**

Robert Staples
Headteacher

THANK YOU!



A special thank you this week goes to the **Foundation Stage**. On Friday last week, they hosted an event where THIRTY Leading Teachers from Hertfordshire came to look around and learn from the setting!

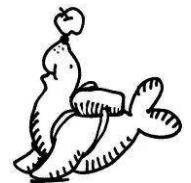
The feedback was extraordinarily positive. Several teachers said they were just 'blown away' by the quality of provision in our Foundation Stage, and they have taken lots of good ideas back to their own schools. Well done, everyone!

ATTENDANCE AWARD

	% CLASS ATTENDANCE	
	w/c 11/01	w/c 18/01
ASH	93.3	93.1
BEECH	90.3	92.3
CHERRY	92.1	96.2
CHESTNUT	92.7	95.8
ELDER	88.3	92.1
ELM	96.1	97.8
HAZEL	91.2	95.4
HAWTHORN	94	97.2
HORNBEAM	93.7	98.7
LARCH	92.2	97.4
LIME	88.3	92.3
LABURNUM	97.8	97.4

READY TO LEARN AWARD

Here are this half term's scores for the **Ready to Learn Award** - remember, the LOWER the score, the better! Points are added each day if one child in the class is absent, late or doesn't have correct uniform, book bag, PE kit, homework etc. The class with the lowest score gets a golden certificate and the huge privilege of looking after Sammy the Seal for a whole week! ***What can you do to help your child's class win?***



	4/1	11/1	18/1	25/1	30/1
CHERRY	X	17	16	20	15
CHESTNUT	X	15	14	16	10
ELDER	X	25	28	19	20
ELM	X	17	9	15	10
HAZEL	X	20	14	18	19
HAWTHORN	X	15	13	12	16
HORNBEAM	X	17	24	16	10
LIME	X	9	16	17	15
LARCH	X	14	14	18	14
LABURNUM	X	13	13	14	8

DO YOU WANT A FREE COMPUTER?

The government has launched a scheme called the 'Home Access' grant, which makes funding accessible for eligible children in years 3-9 to have access to a home computer, by funding a FREE COMPUTER for some families. If you think you might be eligible and would like to know more about this grant please contact Mrs Trafford, via the school office.

VALUABLES IN SCHOOL

Please can I remind parents that children should not be bringing mobile phones to school. If a child does, unavoidably, bring one in, they will be asked to hand it into the office until the end of the school day.

This also applies to jewellery. For health & safety purposes, please do not allow your child to wear any jewellery other than stud earrings as, again, they will be asked to remove them and to collect them from the office at the end of the school day.

STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION

Fairlands Primary School continues to be the top school for young savers in Stevenage – including Mr Staples (!) - but we still need more to join in!

The Stevenage Credit Union is a savings club which collects from a number of schools in Stevenage and enables the children to learn about cash handling at an early age. They can plan what they do with their pocket money - perhaps save for a holiday, christmas or family birthdays.

On joining, children receive a drawstring bag and a savings chart.. After 12 weeks they receive another gift and, if they save regularly, this continues every 12 weeks.

We also encourage parents to join as adult members – now is a good time to start saving for summer holidays or you could join our Christmas Savings Club, to ease the Christmas cash flow! There is no limit to the amount you can save and you can withdraw the money whenever you want it.

The Credit Union is run at Fairlands School in the Upper Hall every **Tuesday at 3.15pm** – come along this week and find out more.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Just a reminder to owners not to bring their dogs into the school grounds when delivering /collecting children – thank you.

SAINSBURYS ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

Vouchers for this year's scheme will be issued in store between 17th February and 8th June. Please ask all your friends and relatives to give you their vouchers to send into school.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE UNDER 16 WHO IS LIVING AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS?

A privately fostered child is one who is looked after by adults who are not close relatives e.g. a cousin, great aunt, friend of the family, the parent of a friend of the child. Grandparents, step-parents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters are not viewed as private foster carers.

The arrangement is made privately, i.e. without the involvement of a local authority, for the care of a child who is under the age of 16 for a period of 28 days or more.

It is an offence for a parent or a private foster carer to fail to inform a local authority of a private fostering arrangement, however, some parents will not be aware of the legislation. If you are planning to privately foster a child or are aware of a private fostering arrangement, please report the arrangement either to school or to social care on 01438 737500.

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

w/c 15 th February	Half Term
Tuesday, 23rd Feb 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Muddle Free Maths Taster Session
Thurs, 25th Feb 3.15pm	Bring and Buy Sale Upper Hall
Monday, 1 st March	Parent/Teacher Appointment Boards in Upper Building
Tuesday, 2nd March 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Muddle Free Maths 4 week course starts
Monday, 8 th March 3.30pm – 6.00pm	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Tuesday, 9th March	Mothers Day Present Room
Weds, 10 th March 5.30pm – 8.00pm	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Weds, 24th March 3.15pm – 5.15pm	Spring Crafts Workshop
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, 24th to Friday, 28th May	Year 4 to Cuffley Camp
Monday, 31 st May to Friday, 4 th June	Half Term