

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 9

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

1st February 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

Today we were privileged to receive some important visitors from the British Virgin Islands, including the Hon Myron V Walwyn (Minister for Education and Culture) and other dignitaries from the British Virgin Islands.

They had come over to hear about schools who have a recent story of improvement, so we were able to share the journey that Fairlands has been on over the last few years. They were very impressed and pleased to hear that all our hard work has been recognised by Ofsted in our recent 'good' inspection outcome.

The time has come around again for our annual **Parent Survey** – a questionnaire was sent home with the eldest child of each family on Wednesday. **It is so important to hear your views!** We use the results to celebrate what we are doing well and to identify areas where we could be even better – I will give full feedback at a future Parent Forum meeting and in the newsletter. PLEASE take 5 minutes to fill this in and return to school by **Friday, 8th February**. Pupils in KS2 will also complete a survey in school, so we should get a good idea of how we are doing!

Robert Staples
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE AWARD

	w/c 14/01	w/c 21/1
ASH	88.5	87.5
BEECH	92.7	92.8
BIRCH	93.3	89.7
CHERRY	93.9	93.3
CHESTNUT	92.2	89.6
ELM	89.3	93.5
ELDER	90.1	92.6
HAZEL	91.2	99
HORNBEAM	94.2	90.2
LIME	85.8	96
LARCH	88.4	94
PINE	96	94.5
POPLAR	85.6	89.6
WALNUT	95.1	96.1
WILLOW	97.2	96.9

BIG MATHS!

Parents/Carers are invited to a presentation to explain Big Maths! (a daily maths lesson where the children are taught mental calculation methods in a fun and lively fashion, and how you can support your child's learning at home.

The session will be run on **Tuesday 5th February at 2.30pm in the Upper Hall and repeated at 6.00pm**. It will last approx ½ hour. The evening session is for adults only and there will be a crèche provided.

UPPER BUILDING SHARED READING

Parents/Carers of children in Year 2 to 6 are invited to come into school from **9.00-9.20am** on **Friday, 15th February** for Shared Reading with your child.

FAIRLANDS FATHERS

The next meeting of Fairlands Fathers will take place on **Monday 4th February** from **7.30 – 9.30pm in the Family Room (lower building – enter via Pre School entrance)**. Why not pop in and join us for a coffee and a chat? It would be great to see a few more dads at our meetings. We chat about a whole range of 'dads' subjects and there is no agenda. Don't worry if you can't be there at 7.30 or can't stay the whole time – it would just be good to see you.

UNDER 5'S DATABASE

Thank you to all those parents who returned their Under 5's Database slip. The winner of the £25 Asda voucher has been informed.

PARENT FORUM

The next Parent Forum will be at **9.00am on Wednesday, 13th February**. Please come along to the Upper Building and join this informal group, to discuss your thoughts about the school.

IS YOUR CHILD STARTING NURSERY SCHOOL IN 2013/14?

If your child was born between 1st September 2009 and 31st August 2010 you can apply for a nursery place for the school year 2013-14 from Monday 11th February.

The quickest and easiest way to apply is on-line at www.hertsdirect/admissions - **application deadline 22nd March 2013**. Parents who do not have the facility to apply on-line are welcome to come into the office and use a computer. If you would like help with your application, please contact the office first to arrange a convenient time.

FAIRLANDS TAEKWONDO CLUB

Fairlands Taekwondo recently took three fighters to the Liverpool Open Novice One-to-One Competition to compete under full-contact Olympic Taekwondo rules (amended to have no head kicks for novices) for their first time in the ring. Mitchell Elmes (an ex-student of Fairlands) was due to fight but unfortunately his opponent didn't arrive on the day.

Tom Elmes from Year 6 fought a very close fight being 3-2 up with just 5 seconds left in the fight, unfortunately conceding 2 points in those last 5 seconds. Tom showed great spirit and technique against a higher graded opponent and was complimented by both the referee and his opponent's coach on his skill level afterwards. Tom Jeffries from Year 5 fought against a competitor with more ring experience, but took a big lead in round 1 and built on that in round 2, managing an excellent win finishing the fight 19-4.

Both fighters showed excellent sportsmanship, discipline and respect. They were a credit to both the Taekwondo club and the school. Those that have chosen to fight for the club now continue to prepare for the next competition, likely to be the Bristol Open Taekwondo Championship in late February, while an assistant instructor at Fairlands Taekwondo has been chosen to attend a selection day for entry to the National Squad to train towards the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Taekwondo is a modern martial art as well as Olympic sport, for more information on the club or how to join see our website at www.stevenagetaekwondo.co.uk or speak to Master Jeffries on 07939 164853.

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

Vouchers are available in store between 30th January and 22nd May. Please ask all your family and friends to help us collect as many vouchers as possible, so that we can claim lots of free PE equipment for the whole school.

POPPY APPEAL

We have received a thank you note from the British Legion following last November's Poppy Appeal - we raised £90.70.

Well done also goes to Mrs Botevyle-Carter, one of our crossing patrol ladies and cleaners, who raised a massive £2282.88 by standing in Aldi with a collecting tin for 16 days!

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR YEAR 1 PARENT ASSEMBLY

DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013 (NEW DATES ARE SHOWN IN BOLD)	
Monday 4th February 7.30 – 9.30pm	Fairlands Fathers (Lower Building)
Tuesday 5th February 2.30pm & 6.00pm	Big Maths! Parent Presentations
Fri 8th Feb 2.45pm UPPER HALL	Year 1 Parents' Class Assembly
Tuesday 12th Feb	Year 2 Dr Seuss WoW Day
Thursday 14 th Feb 2.45pm	Reception Parents' Class Assembly
Friday 15th February 9.00 – 9.20am	Upper Building Shared Reading with parents
Friday 15th February	Year 3 Superhero Wow Day
Mon 18 th – Friday 22 nd Feb	Half Term
Monday 11th March 3.30 – 6.00pm	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Weds 13th March 5.30 – 8.00pm	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Thursday 14th March	Class Photos
Thursday 14 th March 2.45pm	Year 3 Parents' Class Assembly
Weds 27 th March 2.45pm	Year 2 Parents' Class Assembly
Thurs 28 th March	Last Day of Term 2.15pm finish
Monday 15 th April	INSET Day
Tuesday 16 th April	Return to School
Mon 13 th –Fri 17 th May	Year 6 SATS
Mon 20 th – Fri 24 th May	Year 4 to Cuffley Camp
Mon 27 th –Fri 31 st May	Half Term