

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 6

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23rd November 2007

Dear Parents and Carers,

"Listening looks easy, but it's not simple. Every head is a world." – Cuban Proverb

**"When you listen to somebody else, whether you like it or not,
what they say becomes part of you."**

At Fairlands, we pride ourselves on being a listening school – we do try hard to be as approachable as possible and give as much time as we can to hear what parents and children have to say. You all know that you are welcome to make appointments to see any of the staff to discuss any issue, problems or ideas that you may have. I have now also created a '**Headteacher's Listening Box**', which you will find outside the school office. The idea is that anyone can pop their ideas/issues into the box, either with or without a name, and I will open it every Thursday. I will then take any appropriate action to address the issues. Please encourage your children to make use of this – and yourselves as well, if you would like!

Robert Staples
Headteacher

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Each day this week the School Council had a busy week organising and running different events.

They began the week with a powerful assembly, acting out a story about a child who was bullied and how his problem was solved.

The messages were:

- Tell someone about the bullying and
- Don't be a bystander!

Some of the planned Fair and Friendly games activities were rained off on Tuesday, but the drawing competition was a huge success and there many entries. We hope to hold a Fair and Friendly Games afternoon in the Summer Term so that the planned activities can take place then. Wednesday was "Cool to be Kind Day" and each class made a poster illustrating ways of being kind. Then on Thursday children had the opportunity of watching a film with an anti bullying theme.

Winners of the Class Poster Competition were Chestnut in KS1 and Willow in KS2.

This morning the awards were given out in assembly to all the competition winners, and each class was presented with a worry box – a small box in which children can post any concerns.

Well done to everyone for taking part and thank you to Mrs Bradley and the School Council for organising the week's activities.

PARENT FORUM

Apologies for having to postpone this week's Parent Forum – this will now take place at **9.10am on Thursday, 29th November** in the KS2 Learning Room. I look forward to meeting parents/carers and hearing your comments about the school.

KS1 MINI-OLYMPICS

Year 2 had a fantastic time on Wednesday morning when they attended the Mini Olympics run by the Sports Partnership. Children enjoyed being coached in trampolining, wall climbing, soccer, netball, gymnastics, tennis and athletics skill. The children were very well behaved and extremely tired by the time they had finished. They took home lots of information about the various clubs where they can extend their skills and we hope that some may take up the sports on a regular basis.

CHILDREN IN NEED

We held a very successful 'Sponsored Silence' last Friday, in aid of Children in Need. If you haven't already done so, please collect in your money and bring it in, with your named sponsor forms as soon as possible.

QUIZ NIGHT

A very good evening was had by all at the Friends of Fairlands' Quiz Night last Friday. Thank you to everyone for your support at this event and well done to 'Only 4 Weeks Holiday' – the winning team. We were delighted to raise £269 for school funds.

FRIENDS OF FAIRLANDS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Come and join us at our Christmas Fayre on **Saturday, 1st December** from **11am to 2pm** where there will be stalls galore, Father Christmas in his grotto and the Present Room will be open for children to buy their gifts. We will also be serving our delicious hot turkey rolls!

ATTENDANCE AWARDS



Congratulations to Walnut whose attendance is fantastic! They have now won the award for 2 weeks in a row with 98.1% and 98%.

TESCO VOUCHERS

This morning Mrs Harvey, Mrs Johnson and Isaac Banks and Neve Muggleton from the Nursery went to Tesco's in the town to be presented with a new computer for the nursery, which we were able to claim with this year's Computers for Schools vouchers. We have also claimed new headphones for the ICT suite and a printer.

The **Sports for Schools Scheme** has now come to an end in store, but please **send in any vouchers you find at home**. So far we have collected 7,800.

CHRISTMAS STRESSBUSTING

Parentline Plus is running a **FREE** workshop on **Christmas Stressbusting** at Timebridge Community Centre, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage on **Tuesday, 4th December : 7.30 – 9.30pm**. This workshop gives you the chance to share thoughts & feelings about the pressures of being a parent at Christmas and to explore new ways of dealing with them.

To book a place or for more info contact Julia Hunt on 01438 362925 or Cath Slater on 01438 362484.

IS YOUR CHILD STARTING NURSERY IN 2008-09?

If your child was born between 1st September 2004 and 31st August 2005 please apply now for a nursery place for the school year 2008-2009.

Information has already been sent out to parents. If you have not received your pack, please telephone 01438 737500 (01923 471500 for 01923 callers) between 8am & 8pm from Mon – Fri & 9am – 4pm on Saturday. The quickest and easiest way to apply is on-line at www.hertsdirect/admissions - **Application deadline 25th January 2008.**

Parents who do not have the facility to apply on-line will be able to come into school on **Thursday, 10th January between 9.00am and 12.00pm** and use the school's computers in the ICT suit (KS2 building). A member of staff will be available to help!

DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008

Wednesday, 28 th Nov : 9.15am – 11.15am	Parentlineplus Workshop : Dealing with Tantrums
Thursday, 29th Nov: Parent Forum 9.10am	KS2 Learning Room
Saturday, 1st Dec 11am – 2pm	FoF Christmas Fayre
Thursday, 6 th Dec	Rec to Cinderella Panto
Tuesday, 11 th December	Year 3/4 visit to Verulamium
Weds 12th December Morning & Evening	KS1 Christmas Performance
Thurs 13th December Afternoon	KS1 Christmas Performance
Friday, 14th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday, 14th December 2.15 – 3.15	Year 6 Carol Singing in Stevenage Town Centre
Monday, 17th December 2pm	Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert at Holy Trinity
Tuesday, 18th December 2pm	Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert at Holy Trinity
Thursday, 20th Dec	Nursery Party Fun Day
Thursday, 20th Dec	Class Parties
Friday, 21 st December	Last Day of Term : 2.15pm finish
Monday, 7 th Jan, 2008	INSET Day
Tuesday, 8 th Jan, 2008	Return to school