

**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)

7<sup>th</sup> December 2007

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Hopefully, you have all received my letter telling you about all of the Christmas related events that are going on over the next few weeks – including performances, carol concerts, parties, and fun days to mention a few! As ever, there is an incredible amount going on at Fairlands to make school as enriched and as enjoyable as possible for the children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for all their hard work in preparing for these events. This is an extremely busy time of year for teachers and support staff, so I am sure I speak on behalf of all the parents and children when I say **THANK YOU** so much for all the extra bits that are being done this month to make it an 'extra special' time of year.

**Robert Staples**  
Headteacher

### CHILDREN IN NEED

We are delighted to announce that we raised a whopping **£615** for Children in Need – this is a fantastic amount and you should all be very proud of yourselves. Special thanks go to Sue Hurren for her hard work in organising this event.

### FRIENDS OF FAIRLANDS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre was, once again, a great success, raising over **£700**. Thank you very much to everyone who came along and joined in the fun and for all your donations for the various raffles / tombolas, etc.

A big thank you goes to the Friends of Fairlands for organising the event and to all the staff who came in to help on the day.

### CINDERELLA

Yesterday afternoon our Reception class went to the Gordon Craig Theatre to see this year's pantomime – Cinderella. A great time was had by all!

### 'SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL'

Please be aware that at some point during the next two weeks there will be some work carried out to both school entrances which will consist of the installation of a speed thump and bollards. This may be disruptive for parking.

### HERTFORDSHIRE ANTI-BULLYING CONFERENCE

There was nothing but praise for Fairlands at the recent Hertfordshire Anti-Bullying Conference when two of our parents gave a powerful account of how they have been helped by the work Parentline Plus has been doing at the school.

Sara Hassell, Mrs Bradley and two of our parents shared their experiences with well over 100 headteachers, education professionals and parents at the conference, held at the Hertfordshire Development Centre.

The parents in question have been attending some of the recent workshops being run at the school by Parentline Plus, focusing on issues like 'Understanding Children's Behaviour' and 'Less Shouting, More Cooperation'.

One parent described how she used to feel so ashamed of the problems she was experiencing at home and school with her child. She now feels able to hold her head up high, knowing that other parents are experiencing exactly the same challenges as she is.

The organiser, Deborah Sheppard, sent a card to Sara Hassell, Mrs Bradley and the parents thanking them for their input, saying '...you all stole the show completely. Many school staff and other education professionals found the presentations moving and inspiring and a reminder that parents and professionals should work together. I really felt that it broke down some barriers for a lot of people.'

### ATTENDANCE AWARDS



Congratulations to Cedar, who won the award with 97.4% attendance w/c 19<sup>th</sup> November, and to Willow who won with 96.9% attendance last week.

### HOME – SCHOOL – CHILD AGREEMENT

New Home-School-Child Agreements were sent home with children on Monday. Please read these through with your child, both sign the white copy and return it to the office asap. The blue copy is to be kept at home.

### RESPONSIBLE INTERNET USE

In line with our recently introduced school 'Internet Access Policy', a list of 'Responsible Internet Use' rules was sent home with children last week. Please ensure you read these rules through with your child and sign and return the agreement form to school as soon as possible.

### POPPY APPEAL

We have received a card from The Royal British Legion thanking us for this year's donation, which was £49.78. Thank you to everyone who gave to this worthy cause.

### IS YOUR CHILD STARTING NURSERY IN 2008-09?

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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!

### EXTENDED SCHOOLS QUESTIONNAIRE

A questionnaire from the Children's Trust Partnership was sent home to parents this week asking what type of extended school services would be **most** helpful to you. All completed questionnaires received by **Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December**, will be entered into a draw to win an **Apple iPhone**.

### SORTING OUT ARGUMENTS IN THE FAMILY

Parentline Plus is running a **FREE** 7 week workshop on **Sorting out Arguments in the Family** at Fairlands School on **Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> January, 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Feb and 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March from 9.15 – 11.15am.**

Please contact the school office to book a place or, for more info contact Sara Hassell on 01707 630100

### INSET AND OCCASIONAL DAY'S HOLIDAY

**Please note** that school will be closed on the following dates next year : **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June** INSET and **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June** Occasional Day's Holiday.

### DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008

Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Present Room
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3/4 visit to Verulamium
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> December 10.30am & 6.00pm	KS1 Christmas Performance
<b>Weds 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Jungle Book Performance</b>
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm	KS1 Christmas Performance
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2.15 – 3.15	Year 5 & 6 Carol Singing in Stevenage Town Centre
Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm	Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert at Holy Trinity
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm	Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert at Holy Trinity
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec : am	Nursery Party Fun Day
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Class Parties
<b>Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Last Day of Term : 2.15pm finish</b>
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2008	INSET Day
Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2008	Return to school