

Fairlands Middle School Newsletter



Autumn 2018

From The Headteacher

As we approach the end of a long half term, I would like to congratulate all of the pupils on their hard work so far this term. It has been a privilege for me to join in with Year assemblies this week and see so many pupils being awarded house point badges, half marathon and marathon medals for our dedicated Morning Mile runners, as well as various music grade certifications. They are a fabulous way for the pupils to recognise and celebrate their successes with each other.

I am delighted with how our Year 5 and new pupils have settled into life at Fairlands. Each and every one of them is already playing a strong role within our school community and providing a valuable input to lessons and learning. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in preparing them so well every day.

Some parents have spoken to me about their concerns around the openness of our school site. I am delighted to share that, after a number of years raising this as a school concern, we have been awarded a grant from the Local Authority and work on installing safeguarding fencing is due to begin after the half term break. Although this may impact upon some of our stunning views, it is vital in our job of keeping children safe from harm. I am extremely grateful to our FPTA, who are donating the contribution that the school have to make to enable this to happen. As there will be some building contractors on site, can I once again please remind all parents and carers that no-one should be driving through the school site at either the start or the end of the school day. If you do collect your child by car, please be respectful to our neighbours when parking and waiting in the surrounding residential areas.

The end of term, unfortunately, sees a couple of staff changes. Alison Sinclair is leaving to spend more time with her family and Kate Chorley has already left us to take up a new role outside of education. Victoria Daintree, our excellent SENDCo, is retiring after 14 years of supporting pupils and families here at Fairlands. I am grateful to each of them for their hard work and commitment to improving the quality of education for all of our pupils. I am delighted to welcome Lea Mazi Thomas as our new maths HLTA to the staff team.

We have our tutor evenings on Thursday 29 November and Monday 3 December and a letter will be going out regarding these just after half term.

Best wishes for a lovely half term break. I look forward to welcoming the pupils back on Monday 5 November.

Stefan McHale

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

Fairlands Middle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse and harm. All school staff have clear guidelines and procedures to follow in relation to child protection. We all share the responsibility of making sure children are protected from harm and abuse. Children cannot be expected to take full responsibility for their safety and must be cared for by those looking after them. Children have the right to say what they think about things that affect them and must be listened to carefully. Parents and carers can access safeguarding information on the school website using the 'parents' tab.

We have specialist staff trained in child protection and safeguarding. If any parents or carers have a safeguarding concern, please phone Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Oliver Crandon, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Designated Safeguarding Deputies on 01934 743186. Alternatively, when school is closed please call Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 or email childrens@somerset.gov.uk.

Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Assistant Headteacher



Helen Heffernan
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Oliver Crandon
Designated Safeguarding
Deputy



Robert Cooling
Designated Safeguarding
Deputy



Felicity Grant
Designated Safeguarding
Deputy



Sally Virgin
Designated Safeguarding
Deputy

Curriculum News

Humanities

Year 6 Zoo Trip

In humanities lessons, Year 6 have been learning all about the Amazonian tropical rainforest of Brazil. To enrich the pupils' understanding, we took them to Bristol Zoo, where they researched the different animal adaptations that have occurred to enable them to become familiar with their environment. The pupils participated in a workshop where they discovered the problems resulting from deforestation and how they can be part of the solution to this problem. The children had a great day and were excited by the fact that they were allowed to handle and hold insects.

Rebecca Sheppard, Curriculum Leader for Humanities



WaterAid

The Year 7 pupils were lucky enough to have an assembly hosted by WaterAid recently as they have been studying the problems of global water scarcity. The pupils found the assembly very beneficial and inspirational, learning about what could be done to ensure that **everyone, everywhere has clean water for 2030**. Alongside this, the pupils have put their knowledge gained from the assembly into writing Children's UN Water Conference speeches. These are extremely emotive, factual and relevant. Be sure to ask your Year 7 pupil to read their UN Water Conference Speech as they are something to be proud of.

Imogen Brewster, Teacher of Humanities

MFL

I am delighted to be back at Fairlands and sharing the experiences of my recent travels around the world.

The pupils have been celebrating International Languages Week. This year, each Year group represented a different continent; Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas. They wowed us again with their beautiful art work and displays. Lessons were taught with global themes to help and encourage pupils to understand more about the world around them. International Languages Week culminated on Friday 12 October with pupils dressing in costumes to represent their continents and tucking into global cuisine at lunchtime.

The pupils continue to overwhelm me with their dedicated support for this well-established week in our curriculum. This year's costumes were better than ever and the pupils listened attentively in assemblies, helping to further their development as global citizens. It is enrichment weeks like this that really enthuse and encourage pupils' thirst for learning. A big thank you to everybody involved.

Sarah Aynsley, Curriculum Leader for MFL



Photo courtesy of Tony Bolton

PE

Football

National Cup

The Year 8 boys have started strongly on their journey along the ESFA National Cup route. The boys won their first game 5-3 against Millfield and are up against Priory in the second round.

The Year 7 and 8 girls played an outstanding game against last year's finalists Gordano School. They were unsuccessful in getting through to the next round but should be extremely proud of their efforts.

County Cup

The Year 5 and 6 girls headed to Strode College to play in their first football tournament. The girls had been unable to practise together, but this was not reflected in their games. The girls sailed through the first five games winning the first four games and drawing in the final one. They then played against Hugh Sexey where one goal by them put our girls into second place. The girls played brilliantly and were a credit to the school. The Year 6 boys attended the same tournament the week after and played an almost identical tournament. They sailed through the pool stage winning every game before narrowly missing out in the final to St Pauls, enabling them to take second place.

Rugby

It has been fantastic to see so many boys attending the after school rugby practice on a Wednesday. They have all enhanced their skills and have received some excellent coaching from Cheddar Rugby Club. Thank you to them for their support.

Hockey

Hockey matches have been a little slow in starting this year due to schools struggling with other commitments. The Year 8 girls have managed just one game against Wells Blue. They played impressively and came away with a very respectable 2-2 draw. Well done girls!

Morning Mile

The morning mile has been a huge success with around 45 pupils attending each week. This is brilliant to see and I really hope these numbers continue after the break. The morning mile will start again in February.

House Matches

Years 6, 7 and 8 pupils have all competed in boy's rugby and girl's hockey house matches. It has been wonderful to watch so many pupils participate in the games and to observe the improvement within competitive play.

PE (continued)

A big thank you to Premier League Primary Stars who have kindly awarded Fairlands a free Nike kit, consisting of 15 football shirts, shorts and pairs of socks following our successful application through their website.

Premier League Primary Stars is available to schools with primary aged pupils across England and Wales and uses the appeal of the Premier League and professional football clubs to inspire girls and boys aged 5-11 to learn and be active. Watch out for the Year 5 & 6 pupils wearing the kit with pride during the coming months.

Finally, please ensure your child's PE kit is named. We seem to be collecting a lot of items, but are unable to return them due to not knowing who they belong to.

Thank you for your continued support both in lessons and during extra-curricular sport.

Vicky Evans

Curriculum Leader for PE

Past Pupil Success

It is always nice to hear about the sporting success of past pupils. We are delighted that Jess Cooksey has been named as part of the England U20 rugby squad.

Jess started playing rugby with us in lessons and was part of the hugely successful 2014 squad who came 5th in the National Cup at Twickenham. She then continued to play at her local club, Winscombe, before being picked for County selection and then going to Hartbury College to develop her skills further.

It has been an amazingly successful year for Jess who has played in America at the International Las Vegas 7's tournament for the invitational Atlantis team, played for Great Britain in the European 7's championships in France, played for an England Development 15 against Wales at the Principality Stadium and played for England U18 7's in a Home Nations competition in Edinburgh and Birmingham this summer.

We wish her the best of luck in her efforts to make the Women's Rugby World Cup squad!

Vicky Evans

Curriculum Leader for PE



FPTA

I would like to start by extending a warm welcome to all our new parents. With your child now attending Fairlands Middle School, you are all automatically part of the FPTA.

Following our recent AGM, I am delighted to share with you that Emma Michelmore remains our Chairperson, a huge thank you to her. Our fundraising over the last few years (including donations, Christmas raffle and summer fair) has raised over £3,000, which, as I have mentioned in my Headteacher article, has enabled us to provide funding for the safeguarding fencing.

A letter providing details of our donation scheme will be sent out in the near future. Thank you for all your continued support.

Stefan McHale, Headteacher

MENDIP EDGE FEDERATION (MEF) GOVERNOR NEWS

On 18 September, the election for Chair of the Federation was held and Adrian Warman was voted in. His two Vice Chairs are Diane Sleeman (previous Chair) and Richard Holmes.

The governing body has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. We would like to invite any parents or carers of a pupil attending one of our Federation of four local schools to put their name forward for consideration. This is a parent or carer of a pupil attending the school who is elected by other parents/carers to give a parental perspective in discussions and decisions. In addition, it would be expected that Parent Governors bring a range of skills that will help them to contribute effectively to the work of the Governing Body. We are particularly interested to hear from parents with a professional background. If you would like to find out more, please contact me at the School. or email DAndrews1@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Debbie Andrews, Clerk to the MEF Governing Body

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Thursday 4 October, Fairlands Middle School held a Macmillan coffee morning. Some of the parents and pupils baked lots of cakes.

A big thank you to everyone who made and brought in cakes and to Mrs Ninnis and my friends for helping me to set everything up and sell the lovely cakes.

We raised a massive £231.28. Thank you and well done to everyone for supporting!

Jolie Foot, 7JB

