



Fairholme Primary School

'We believe we can achieve'

Issue 4 - November 2024

A message from Mrs Harris our Headteacher: It was lovely to see so many families in school this week for Parents' Evening to hear how your child is getting on in school. Thank you to those parents/carers who were able to complete our survey, this is really helpful. We are looking forward to seeing you back in school in a few weeks for our Christmas Performances.

School Dinners – parents/carers you are now able to log in to Parent Pay to select your child's daily lunch choice. This means that you can ensure they are picking a meal they will enjoy, and you will know what they are eating too. You can login daily and the cut off is 8.30am or you can login and do a week or a half term in advance. Please do try to do this with your child.

A reminder that school opens at 8.40am and gates close at 8.50am, which is when the registers are taken and learning starts. Any Children who arrive after this time will be marked as late. Recently, we have had too many children arriving after 8.50am. It is very important that your child is on time for school so they don't miss any of their learning. Breakfast Club starts at 7.30am if you need any support with childcare before school.

Across school we have recently celebrated Inter Faith Week, the children carried out lots of fun activities to promote tolerance and understanding between people of different faiths and beliefs. They wrote some amazing acrostic poems, took part in research of the various places of worship, sketched religious symbols and learnt about Diwali.

Does your child have **Special Educational Needs**? If so, you might be interested in getting together with other parents of young people (0 to 25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The Hounslow parent carers' forum is a friendly group of parents who meet once a month to discuss SEND issues such as health, education and employment. <https://hounslowpcf.co.uk/>

Christmas Fair

Friday 6th December 4 – 6pm

The staff have been working very hard to plan and prepare our second ever Christmas Fair and our plan is to be bigger and better than last year!

Two of our Governors have been preparing Santa's grotto ready for his arrival on Friday! Also, a big thank you to Kirsty and Liz, two parents who have kindly been selling raffle tickets for us.

Please do spread the word about our Fair and do pop along to join in some festive fun.

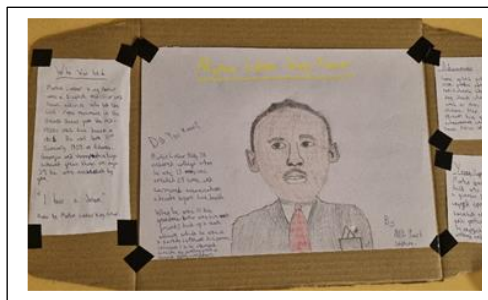


Black History Month Winners: Across the school we have celebrated Black History Month. Using drama, discussion, stories and art the children have had regular opportunities to explore and develop their understanding by reflecting on the stories, voices and achievements of black individuals throughout history.

We have been super impressed with the wonderful entries for our competition. The creativity and levels of research were amazing! Well done 😊

The winners are...

Alfie – Year 6
Talia - Year
Tommy – Year 3
Kanshikaa – Year 6
Amani - Year 3
Ashley - Year 3
Evangeline – Year 3





10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators PROMOTING PHYSICAL WELLBEING

Physical activity isn't only beneficial for our bodies; it also plays a role in promoting mental wellbeing. With both the Euros and the Olympics this summer, it's an opportunity to engage young people in regular exercise which can reduce stress, improve mood and boost self-esteem. Despite these benefits, many children face barriers to participating in physical activity.

1 MAKE IT FUN

Incorporate activities that children enjoy, such as playing games or dancing. Encourage participation in team sports or group activities to foster social connections and a sense of belonging.

2 MIX MOVEMENT WITH LEARNING

Educational settings can incorporate movement breaks and physical activities to enhance focus, concentration and cognitive function. Embedding exercise into the curriculum can also reinforce learning and stimulate creativity. Revision works with podcasts and flashcards can benefit older learners.

3 CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

Provide clear chances for physical activity throughout the day, both indoors and outdoors. Schools can encourage active play during breaks and at lunchtimes, while limiting screen time at home can help keep children up and about.

4 PROVIDE POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Praise and encourage children for their efforts and achievements in physical activity. Recognise their progress and celebrate their successes to reinforce positive behaviours. Educators could do this in several ways, such as applauding their efforts at assemblies or celebrating their accomplishments in newsletters.

5 VARIETY IS KEY

Introduce a selection of physical activities to keep children engaged and prevent boredom. From swimming and cycling to yoga and martial arts, trying different types of exercise can help children to discover what they enjoy most.

6 ENJOYMENT OVER COMPETITION

Encourage children to focus on the enjoyment of physical activity rather than winning or achieving perfection. Emphasise effort, improvement and having fun rather than outcomes, to minimise the amount of stress that children can sometimes associate with sports and other competitions.

7 SET REALISTIC GOALS

Help children set achievable physical activity targets based on their interests, abilities and preferences. Celebrate their progress and successes to maintain motivation and enthusiasm.

8 MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE

Ensure that children have access to safe, suitable spaces for exercise at home, at school and in the community. Advocate for inclusive environments which accommodate diverse needs and abilities. Be a change maker in your community if facilities aren't already available.

9 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Parents and carers can be positive role models by prioritising their own exercise and involving children in their fitness routines. Gentle walks, bike rides or sports activities can be wonderful opportunities for bonding and staying active together.

10 ENCOURAGE PERSISTENCE

Help children develop resilience and perseverance by encouraging them to overcome challenges and setbacks in physical activity. Teach them the importance of perseverance and the value of effort in achieving their goals.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is a learning and development specialist who, as well as working for Minds Ahead, is associate vice principal for personal development at a large secondary school in Barnsley. He was asked to be part of an expert research group for the Department for Education, one of only three school leaders to be asked to do so.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



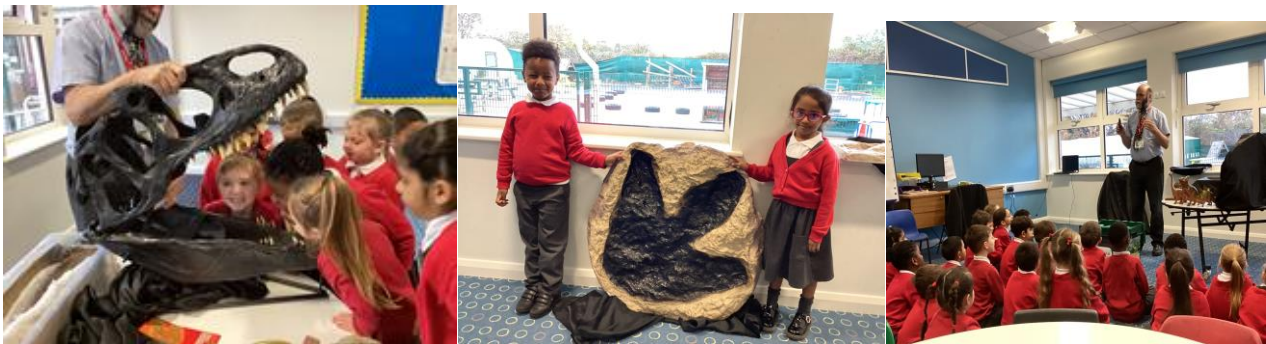
What is happening across our school?

EYFS



EYFS have been learning all about the festival of lights - Diwali. The children had fun making rangoli patterns using chalk and making/decorating colourful divas. We enjoyed listening to the Rama and Sita story and did so well at remembering that the demon king had ten heads!

EYFS have also been busy learning about bears. We have been on a bear hunt and created pictures of Brown bear and Red bird. When a bear came into our classroom and made a mess we wrote wanted posters and stuck them up around school to see if anyone could find him.



Year 1: The children in Year 1 had a fantastic time at their Dinosaur Workshop this week. They saw real dinosaur bones, teeth, eggs, claws and even an Allosaurus skull! They also made their own plaster of paris fossils and learnt how to do fossil rubbings. The children were able to use the graphemes that they are learning in phonics to do some writing about the dinosaurs. Please do practice phonics at home with your child.

Please do visit the Little Wandle website and spend some time looking at the Parent section:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>





Year 2



In RE in Year 2 we have been becoming familiar with the Christian story 'The Prodigal Son', we created puppets to help us re-tell the story and then explored how the characters felt during the story. We also talked about how best we could help others if we were gifted with a large amount of money.

In Science, we have been looking at different materials and their properties. Miss Nicholls went up on the roof to help us investigate which ball was the bounciest. We experimented with different materials to find which was the most stretchy to make some headbands for Coach Joe's football team.

Year 3



The children have worked super hard in their Science lessons this half term. We have been rock detectives which has helped us to explore more links with our 'Time Team' topic based around the Stone Age period. The children have been observing and testing the properties of rocks to identify if they are sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic. We have also had an interactive workshop which the children enjoyed very much.

We have also been working hard practicing our timetables. Please do help us by practicing timetables at home daily for 10 mins if you can





Year 4

In Year 4, the children were very lucky to have the opportunity to visit the Royal Albert Hall, where we watched musicians compete to become the 'Future Maker' of 2024. Who knows one day one of our children could be a 'Future Maker' performing at the Royal Albert Hall!

In our topic Togatastic we are learning all about the Romans. In art, we explored how they decorated their villas with intricate mosaics, and we created our own mosaic designs inspired by these ancient artworks. Year 4 had a Roman Villa building workshop on Monday 11th November. The children worked collaboratively to create a real life-size structure using lengths of stick and rubber bands. Every child participated and were amazed by the final structure.



Year 5: Our topic this half term is Cosmic which is learning all about the incredible universe, from the planets in our solar system to the stars and galaxies that fill the night sky. We are looking at the science behind space and the history of space exploration. Alongside all of our fun and engaging, English, Maths and topic lessons, to get us started; We've had two very exciting Science workshops, where we launched our own mini rockets and learnt about different kinds of energy!

An author visit which involved dramatic storytelling, about the birth of the Greek gods and the Greek's belief in the earth's creation; this included playful poetry activities which the children found incredibly enjoyable and engaging.

We created our own retro futurism art work; drawing inspiration from the 1920s through the 1960s, retro-futurist art reflecting the optimistic and imaginative views of the future that were popular during these eras. We had an immersive and interactive VR workshop, which was all about space and the cosmos.



Year 6 have been diving into our new topic: *The Circulatory System*. The children have been fully engaged, making "blood smoothies" to investigate the different components of blood and participating in an exciting heart dissection workshop. They even became "blood cells" themselves, following the journey of blood as it circulates through the body and the heart—a complex yet vital organ that we've studied in depth.

In art, we've begun a fascinating project inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci. We're excited to reveal the details of their next art project soon, and the children are eagerly anticipating what they'll be creating!

The class is also captivated by our new text, *Stormbreaker*, a thrilling story about a British teenager who suddenly finds himself working for MI6 as a secret spy, trading his ordinary life for high-stakes adventures.

A reminder of the Christmas dates for you:

Christmas Dates

Performances:

- Wednesday 11th December – 9:30am & 2:00pm – Reception
- Thursday 12th December – 10:00am – Nursery
- Friday 13th December – 9:30am & 2:00pm – Year 1 & Year 2
- Monday 16th December – 9:30am & 2:00pm – Year 5 & Year 6
- Tuesday 17th December – 9:30am & 2:00pm Year 3 & Year 4

Other events:

- Friday 6th December – 4:00pm – 6:00pm – Christmas Fair
- Thursday 12th December – Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 19th December – Christmas Parties



READING CORNER

CREATING A READING ENVIRONMENT AT HOME: DEDICATED READING SPACE

Choose the Right Spot

- Quiet and calm: Find a corner or area in your home that's away from the hustle and bustle. It should be a sanctuary where your child can immerse themselves in stories without interruptions.
- Well-lit: Good lighting is key. A space with natural light is ideal for daytime reading, while a soft lamp can make evening reading sessions cosy.

Make It Comfortable

- Cosy seating: Comfort is crucial. A cushion on the floor, a stack of pillows, or a favourite chair can all serve as inviting places for your child to curl up with a book.
- Accessible books: Keep a selection of books on hand that your child can easily choose from. This could be a shelf, a basket, or even a regular stack on the floor, arranged so the covers are visible to entice young readers.

Personalise the Space

- Decorate together: Let your child add personal touches to their reading nook. Handmade decorations, drawings, or a few selected toys can make the space feel special and uniquely theirs.
- Reading supplies: Alongside books, have some pencils, paper, and maybe a dictionary nearby for looking up new words. These can be kept in a simple box or bag that your child can decorate.

Keep It Distraction-Free

- Limit electronic devices: Try to keep electronic distractions to a minimum in the reading area. If possible, designate times for quiet reading when TVs and other devices are switched off.
- Establish quiet time: Setting aside a specific time for reading or quiet activities can help build a routine that includes and values reading.

Update and Adapt the Space

- Rotate books: Changing the books available in the reading nook can keep your child interested. Mix familiar favourites with new finds from library visits or book swaps.
- Adapt as they grow: The reading nook can evolve with your child. What starts with picture books and soft toys can change to include chapter books and a comfortable bean bag or cushion.

Author Visit - Jonny Walker, author and poet worked with children in Year 3 and Year 5.

In Year 3, the focus of the workshop was on nonsense poetry and the Jabberwocky; the children did poetry game warm ups, explored what nonsense means, and enacted the Jabberwocky together.



In Year 5, the children had a Greek mythology session, which was about eliciting their prior knowledge and then building on that through whole-class dramatic storytelling, about the birth of the Greek gods and the Greek's belief in the earth's creation.



Fairholme Sporting Times

Exciting athletics at Reach Academy on a frosty afternoon!



On Wednesday 20th November 2024 we took part in the Years 5 & 6 Athletics tournament at Reach Academy in Feltham.

16 students across years 5 & 6 were selected to represent Fairholme, they did themselves and everyone back at school extremely proud with their efforts.

Events such as Hurdles and relay races were popular among the students.

Talia in Year 6 Sapphire class said "I love running so being able to participate in the events was really enjoyable and competitive."

Hafsa also in Year 6 Sapphire said "It was a really fun day out. My favourite part was being with my school friends outside of the school environment."

Ella Rose in Year 5 Turquoise class said "After being out of PE & Sport participation for quite a while after an injury, it was great to be a part of representing the school and doing exercise makes me happy."

A big thank you to Mr Horry & Miss Streeter for accompanying us and cheering us on!

Look out for our Sports journalists in action published on this news paper after every competition from now on. The next competition for our school is the KS1 Skills Festival!



Thought for the week

If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it.

Question of the week

Would you rather have a pet hamster or a pet cat?