



Fairholme Primary School

'We believe we can achieve'

Issue 5 - December 2024

A message from Mrs Harris our Headteacher:

What a wonderful month we have had in school celebrating all things Christmas. We have enjoyed Christmas Performances from Reception to Year 6 and Nursery sang some lovely Christmas songs for their families to come and enjoy. Christmas Jumper day was great fun and made even more fun by being on the same day as Christmas Lunch. 385 children enjoyed a yummy Christmas dinner cooked by our wonderful kitchen team. The Christmas Fair was a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy spending some time together. We raised £2200, which is brilliant. The end of term Christmas parties were a fun way for children to enjoy celebrating together the end of a really successful term. A big thank you to all the staff for their hard work to make these events happen.

The Autumn Term has been full of successes from school trips to sports trips to many different visitors and workshops in school, the Razzle Dazzle disco, the Year 6 residential the list goes on. It has been lovely to see the children immersing themselves in their topics, being curious and making progress in their learning. The Reception children have completed their first whole term of their school life and have grown in confidence, independence and we have seen them really grow as part of our school community. We are looking forward to seeing them develop over the Spring Term.

Thank you for your support with attendance, we are ending the term with a whole school attendance of 94%. We are aiming for 96% and will continue to work hard on this next term.

Lastly, from all the staff at Fairholme, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope the Christmas break brings everyone an opportunity to rest, relax and recharge. We are looking forward to seeing the children on Tuesday 7th January to start the Spring Term.

House Points

Part of our Behaviour and Relationships Policy is to reward children with house points. In school we have four houses:

Water
Air
Fire
Earth

The children are all in a house and collect house points for their great behaviour and learning. Please ask your child what house they are in and what they have been given house points for.

Each week the house with the most house points is announced in assembly and the children love to find out who has won!

This week Water, who were the house who received most house points over the whole term, are enjoying a movie and popcorn afternoon as their reward.



Special Educational Needs

Hounslow's Ordinarily Available Provision has been updated. The provision outlines the support and resources that all schools in the borough will provide for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) without the need for an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP).

It ensures that every child receives the help they need to access learning and thrive in school. This includes tailored teaching approaches, classroom adaptations, and access to school-based interventions.

For more information about Hounslow's Ordinarily Available Provision, please speak with Mr Doyle or your child's class teacher.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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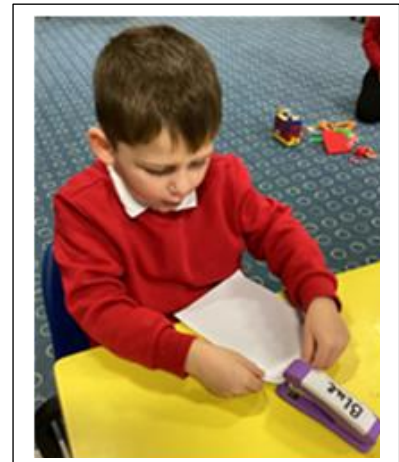
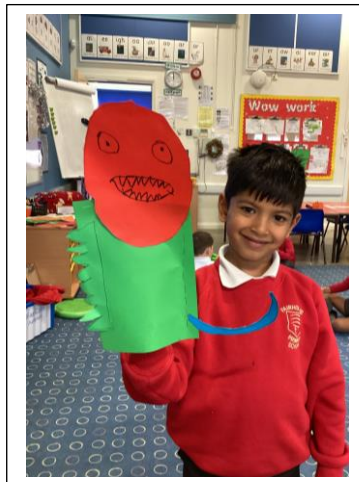
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What is happening across our school?

In **Early Years** we have been learning about the Gingerbread man. We have learnt the story, made puppets, acted it out and made Gingerbread men. Reception wrote the story too! (Their writing is awesome!) We've been looking at squares and rectangles and their properties. We went on a shape hunt and have been noticing them in our play. In our PE, we have been learning how to use the large equipment. The children really pushed themselves and we have noticed this has increased their confidence in the Outside Area too. After that we went all out for Christmas!



Year 1: The children in Year 1 had a great time working on their D.T project for this half term, making Dinosaur hand puppets.

First they explored different ways of joining materials and then they designed their puppets before finally making them.





Year 2



In Geography, we have been using our map skills to find cones hidden around the school. It was hard, but we tried our best and showed great resilience!



This was our trip to Bedford Lakes where we needed to try and find examples of human and physical Geography all around us. We have a much better understanding of this now!



Year 3



We have been Rock Detectives in science and have used our observational skills to detect and sort the properties of different types of rock. The children considered how to ensure that their experiment was a fair test and they used a range of scientific skills to deduce whether or not the rocks were sedimentary, metamorphic or igneous.



We had a very exciting VR Headset workshop where we explored what it may have been like to be living during the Stone Age period. The children were thrilled to experience the landscape and animals that we have been learning about this term. We have enjoyed learning about this topic and can't wait to explore our new topic "What a Wonderful World" in the Spring.





Year 4

Leon

The Abandoned House

"Ansel, don't go near the abandoned house, there are electrical wires!" Warned dad. "It's dangerous!" "Did Ansel listen of course Not!"

The abandoned house was at the end of Muggie Moss Road, next to the electrical wires. It stood like a silent sentinel watching over the land. The walls were covered with moss which was like a fuzzy green blanket. The broken window stared sadly like the hollow eyes of a ghost.

Ansel and his friend Aaron went to the house so they wouldn't get disturbed. They practised the guitar. Suddenly a storm raged.

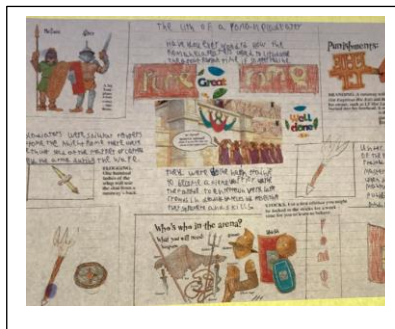
The storm had been brewing all morning. The trees were like crazed zombies thrashing wildly. Without warning a bolt of lightning so close that it shook the earth and struck the electrical wires which crashed onto the abandoned house.

Luckily Aaron broke open the window of the abandoned house and laughing with relief they escaped.

In Year 4, we were lucky to experience Roman times using a VR headset. This was so exciting. "It felt like we were in a dream," Mazej. "Excellent, it was fun learning about the Romans," Ashriel.

We have also been busy writing our own warning stories using our Talk 4 Writing strategies. We have been really thinking carefully about what impact our writing will have on the reader and being very creative.

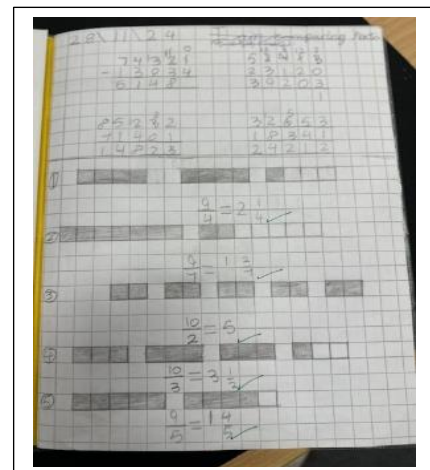
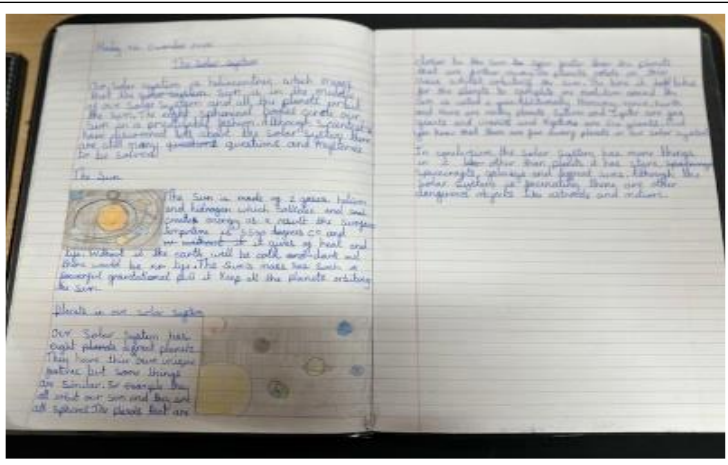
As part of our History learning, the children have written information texts on Roman Gladiators.



Year 5: In Year 5, as this term draws to a close, we are reflecting and celebrating all the wonderful learning we've done and the fun we've had along the way. We embarked on an exciting journey of discovery through our topics *Raiders and Traders* and *Cosmic*. Our learning was full of adventure, creativity, and curiosity, and it has sparked a passion for history and science that will stay with us long after this term.

In Maths, we have made incredible progress in understanding fractions! From adding and subtracting fractions to comparing and simplifying them, we've built a strong foundation of knowledge and skills. We also explored how fractions relate to everyday life, which made the learning even more exciting and relevant.

In Writing, we've had a creative and engaging time crafting a variety of texts. We wrote *warning tales*, using suspense and detail to craft gripping stories with important lessons. Our *explanation texts* helped us communicate complex ideas clearly and effectively, while in our *newspaper reports*, we practiced the art of summarizing events and presenting information in an engaging and factual way. Each genre allowed us to express ourselves in different ways, and we've developed both our writing skills and confidence throughout the term.

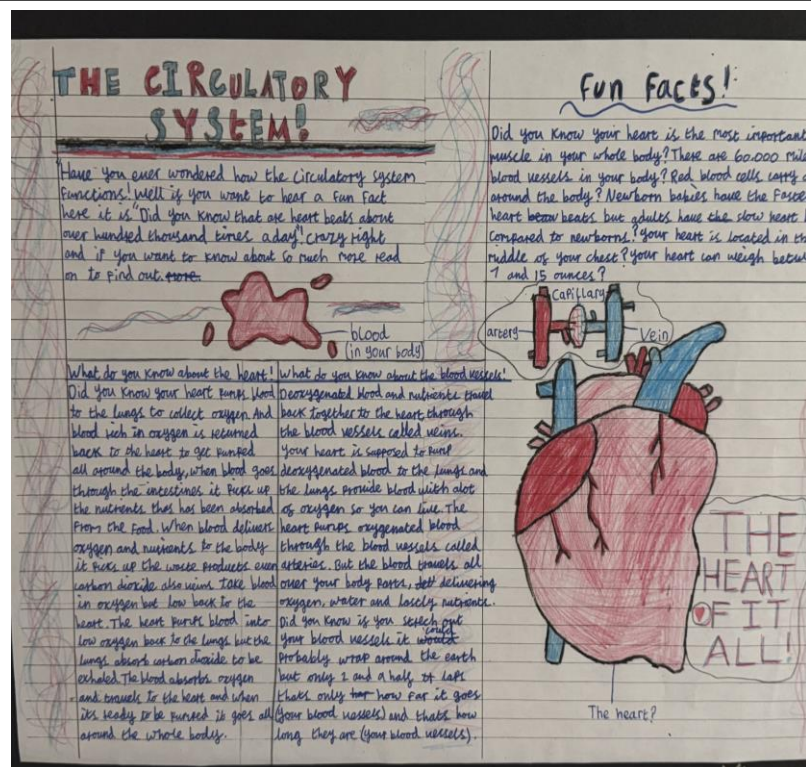




Year 6 What a fantastic term. The children have become experts in the human circulatory system, producing some wonderful explanation texts to showcase their knowledge. In art, they sketched stunning hearts inspired by the work of Leonardo Da Vinci, demonstrating both creativity and precision.

Looking ahead to next term, we have lots of exciting things planned. Our learning will take us into the fascinating world of Charles Darwin as we explore evolution and inheritance, and we're thrilled to announce an upcoming trip to London Zoo to enrich this topic. Auditions for our much-anticipated Year 6 production will also begin—an event we can't wait to see take shape!

We're keen to continue working closely with families, hosting more maths parent workshops and running a very special *Reading Café*, where parents can join their children in exploring new reading genres.



Fund Raising

During our Headteacher Hooray meetings and School Council meetings we regularly ask the children how they think we could develop our school further. The most common response is to improve the playgrounds by adding in some climbing equipment, new line markings, ping pong tables (KS2) and more things to play with. We are on a fund-raising mission to make this happen!

So far this term we have raised:

Tesco Blue Tokens - £375

Friends of Fairholme Halloween Treat Sale - £240

Clothes Bank collection - £54

Adsa Cashpot for schools- £290

Christmas Fair - £2200

(The Tesco collection for Fairholme via blue tokens will be returning mid-January in our local stores, so if you shop in Tesco please do keep an eye out for the blue tokens and pick our school).

Thank you for supporting us in our mission to fund raise to develop the playgrounds. Please do keep your eyes peeled on the playgrounds for some exciting developments that will be happening around February time.

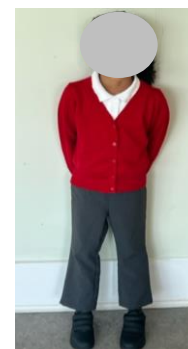


Uniform

A reminder of our school uniform which is compulsory from January 2024. More information about uniform is available on our school website.

Daily uniform list

- Plain white polo shirt with collar
- Plain red sweatshirt or cardigan, with or without the school logo (no hoods or other markings)
- Grey school trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress (not sports/PE shorts)
- Red and white checked summer dress (including culottes style)
- Plain grey, white or red socks or tights
- Black shoes (not trainers or boots); in summer, smart black or white sandals may also be worn
- Simple hair accessories should be black, grey, red or white
- Plain black, grey, red or white hijabs, patkas or turbans
- Nursery children are required to wear the white polo shirt and red sweatshirt or cardigan



PE kit list *to be worn only on days when your child has PE lessons*

- Plain red round-neck t-shirt (no collar or logos)
- Plain black jogging bottoms, plain black leggings or plain black loose shorts (not cycling/tight shorts)
- Plain red sweatshirt or cardigan, with or without the school logo (no hoods or other markings)
- Comfortable trainers with good grip or black plimsolls (no studs or 'heelies')



School shoes

- All children should wear comfortable plain black school shoes. Trainers are only permitted on PE days. Some examples of suitable school shoes include:





Fairholme Sporting Times

Fun range of sports to compete with at Osterley Sports Centre!

On Wednesday 4th December 2024, 10 pupils from Year 2 had the opportunity for the very first time to represent Fairholme at the Skills Festival at Osterley Sports Centre.

All of the events included Fundamental skills which the students have been learning in PE such as running, throwing, catching, kicking & co-ordination.

Zayd from Red class said "My favourite event was the basketball dribbling. It really tested my co-ordination because I had to bounce the ball and run at the same time!"

Lacie also from Red class showed a great example of perseverance "I liked the penalty kicks to a target. I missed my first shot but managed to hit the target on my second go!"



Julia from Purple class said "I had so much fun and cannot wait to represent the school again. Working within a team makes me happy."

"A big thank you to Mr Horry & Mrs Cox for supporting us at the festival."

Every single student should be extremely proud that they are participating in competitions in Year 2 and should be even happier with their efforts.

We have a very bright sporting future here at Fairholme!



Thought for the week

It is nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice.

Question of the week

Would you rather be able to slide down a rainbow or jump on clouds?