

Fairlands Middle School Newsletter

July 2019



From The Headteacher

I would like to start this newsletter by thanking you all for your support throughout the year. Even with events such as the recent Ransomware attack, the pupils have worked hard, made good progress and enjoyed their lessons. It is clear that both staff and families have worked together to ensure that their learning has continued as normal. The Ransomware attack severely disabled our systems and I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for annual reports not being ready as usual. I hope that you find the GL assessment and Key Stage 2 results informative and helpful. Reports will be issued in early September.

As with every year, there are too many highlights for me to mention and provide justice to. It has been a real privilege for me to see the pupils and staff working hard together during lessons, challenging each other intellectually with thoughtful and deeper questioning, as well as seeing pupils develop their independent learning skills. The highlights for the pupils when I speak to them are the residential trips to Weymouth, Recklingshausen and London; leadership opportunities, especially in PE and maths and the enrichment days. We know that these wider curriculum opportunities play a vital role in adding breadth to our curriculum and even though sometimes the impact cannot be measured easily, they play a big part of preparing our young people for their future lives.

As I write this, I am looking forward to the end-of-term activities. The activities to note are the Year 8 advertising campaign, the Celebration Assemblies for Years 5, 6 and 7 and the Leavers/Awards Ceremony for Year 8. The advertising campaign is always highly anticipated by the Year 8 pupils as they use learning from so many curriculum areas in presenting a product or design to the pupils in the other year groups. It is a wonderful whole school activity and provides a fabulous summary to their four years at Fairlands. We are going to miss them and look forward to hearing about their progress and achievements in the years to come!

I look forward to seeing many of you celebrating the achievements of the pupils at our Celebration Assemblies and Leavers/Awards Ceremony. These assemblies and ceremonies are a fabulous way to showcase the excellent work and progress that each child has achieved over the year. It is always delightful to see the pupils supporting their peers and being really proud of each other's achievements and accomplishments!

There will be some minor staff changes next year. Sarah Aynsley leaves us at the end of this academic year to go on maternity leave. We wish both Sarah and her partner all the best with their pending new arrival. We are pleased to welcome back Stephanie Milne who will be covering MFL lessons. We say farewell to Holly Tyson, LSA, who is joining Kings Fitness and Leisure, Helen Sayer, LSA, who is joining Kings Academy and Sarah Ninnis, HLTA, who is hoping to spend more time with her family. In mid September, we will also say farewell to Ollie Crandon, our Data Manager, who will start a teaching degree. He is replaced by Louise Hulbert. We wish them all the best for the future and look forward to welcoming Louise to the team.

Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful summer break. Enjoy your travels wherever they may take you and I look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 4 September.

Stefan McHale

Mock Trial

The Year 8 Mock Trial team took part in the South West Regional Final at Chippenham Law Courts on Saturday 19 May. After being welcomed by the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Mrs Nicky Alberry, they faced a very confident group from St. Albans RC High School (Pontypool) but the pupils in our Defence Team were steadfast in their responses and persistent in their questioning. Humphry Davy School (Penzance) were the opponents in the second round where our Prosecution Team delivered a very compelling and persuasive performance which secured them a convincing guilty verdict. Once the magistrates had totalled the scores and discussed the six schools' performances, Fairlands were declared the winners. They then went through to the National Final in Birmingham on 16 June where they showed their skill and determination and gave sterling performances. The team should feel really pleased with themselves, we are very proud of them all.

Kathy Trinel, Felicity Grant and Kate Persaud



FPTA

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in our Summer Fayre earlier this term, from the many pupils who made so much effort in organising their own stalls, to parents who helped us on the evening and everyone else who came along to support us. It was a brilliant sunny evening and we managed to raise £952.

Thank you for all your support and generous donations throughout the year. We will keep you posted on how the money will be spent and how you can get involved. The next date for the diary is the AGM on Monday 23 September at 6 pm.

Stefan McHale

Maths Challenge

Over 270,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge with roughly the top 6% of pupils receiving a gold certificate, the next 13% a silver certificate and the next 21% a bronze certificate. This year our pupils from across Year 7 and Year 8 managed an impressive 10 bronzes, 7 silvers and 3 golds, including 3 of our pupils being invited to take part in the follow on kangaroo round.

A special mention must go to Tristan Hollyfield who received the award for highest scoring Year 7 pupil and to Sophie Wilson who, not only received the award for highest Year 8 score, but also the highest score across the school.

Well done to all who took part in the challenge!

Kate Leech, Curriculum Leader for KS3 Maths

Year 6 Germany

This term, 72 pupils from Year 6 took the opportunity to travel to Germany, where they embraced both language and culture. Throughout the year, pupils had been in contact with their pen pals whom they finally met, when we visited the Liebfrauenschule in Recklingshausen. The pupils spent the morning getting to know their pen pals and then saw how and what lessons were taught in the school. They were able to compare similarities and note cultural differences. Throughout the rest of our stay in Germany, pupils visited Ketterler Hof, a children's adventure park, a swimming pool and a zoo, finishing off with a disco before heading back to Cheddar via a Belgian chocolate factory. A fabulous time was had by all!

Sarah Aynsley, Curriculum Leader for MFL



PE

Sports Day

We were very fortunate that the Sun shone for both our sports days this year. Monday saw the return of the field events and track heats. It was a fast paced day, with very little time to rest. However, that did not stop a number of pupils successfully gaining new school records. Tuesday morning saw Years 5 and 6 pupils participating in rounders house matches and it was wonderful to see all the pupils involved. In conjunction with this, Years 7 and 8 participated in a doubles tennis competition.

The afternoon events saw a record number of parents attending. There were some exceptional performances from many of the pupils, resulting in a battle between Mendip & Quantock throughout the afternoon events. However, it was Mendip who took the title this year. Well done! Over 10 records were broken during the two days. Congratulations to all the new record holders!

The Year 8 1500m winners were:-

Boys - Thomas Averley (new school record)

Girls - Laura Ann Marshman

A gentle reminder:

Please remember to name all belongings so that we can re-unite kit with its owner. We have a number of unnamed items outside of the PE office. Kit sometimes gets mixed up. If you have any items which you think are not yours, then please drop them in – thank you.

Vicky Evans, Curriculum Leader for PE

SOLE Cycling

SOLE Cycling came into Fairlands to work with a group of boys in Years 6 and 7 whose aim was to deliver a session to a small group of Year 5's involving a variety of different cycling skills.

Over the 6 weeks, they learnt how to repair a bike, how to stay safe on a bike and also how to set up and work as a team when delivering a session.

The boys would like to say a big thank you to Mark who worked brilliantly with them all.

Kieran Webster, Learning Support Assistant



Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

If any parents/carers have a safeguarding concern, please phone Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Rob Cooling, Felicity Grant, or 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.