

# Fairlands Middle School Newsletter

March 2019



## From The Headteacher

The Spring term has been extremely busy with lots of things happening across the curriculum both in and out of the classroom, from a visiting poet and pupils undertaking the maths challenge, to exciting trips for Science Week. I hope that you take the time to enjoy some of the highlights that have taken place, which are included in this newsletter. I am always in awe of the wonderful things that our pupils and staff achieve together, either through a whole school enrichment activity such as our recent PE and food day, or the recent Walking Talking Mocks for Year 6 pupils where we try to prepare and reassure them for the end of Key Stage tests.

It was informative to chat to parents/carers at my headteacher clinic this term, where I was able to introduce Matt Vincent, our new Associate Leader and SENDCo. Matt brings a wealth of SEND experience and we are delighted that he has joined the team. I am really pleased with the impact he has made in the short time with us so far. It was also good to see so many of you at the parents evenings. Thank you for your positive and supportive feedback.

I am delighted to report yet another success of a Mock Trial team at Fairlands. Our team won the Mock Trial competition in Worle and now go on to represent Fairlands at the regional competition. The staff involved in these activities go above and beyond what is normally expected of a teacher and I am grateful for their time and energy in giving the pupils these experiences. Another notable success for our pupils is Year 5 and Year 6 winning a category of the IAPWA 'Hear Them' Competition. Well done to all concerned!

The Fairlands mile has started again and it is fantastic to see so many of our pupils taking part. With this in mind and to help with the safety of our staff and pupils, I would like to remind parents/carers to refrain from driving through the site in the mornings. If for any reason you have a need, could you please telephone or email the school office.

I hope you have an enjoyable and restful Easter break and I look forward to greeting the pupils back on Tuesday 23 April.

*Stefan McHale*

## Year 5 Plays

Year 5 worked extremely hard in their drama lessons to rehearse 'Porridge' and 'Ye-Ha'. Producing these plays was no mean feat, as the majority of children had lines to learn and, for some children, it was a huge achievement to speak on stage. The Year 5 music and drama teams strongly believe that if a child wants to have a go on stage, singing or taking part in a dance, then they should, no matter what their abilities are. As a result, we have watched the children's confidence grow.

We could not have put these plays on without the help from the many Year 8 pupils who gave up their lunchtimes to choreograph and teach the dances, as well as being fabulous backstage managers and behind the scenes helpers on the nights of the performances.

Although hard work, it was great fun and the Year 5 pupils thoroughly deserved the huge rounds of applause that they received on both evenings. They were all stars!

*Lucy Heard, Year 5 Teacher*



## Mock Trial Success



A budding legal team of Year 8s entered the Mock Trial Competition this term and dedicated many lunchtimes and afterschool sessions to scrupulously prepare their roles, speeches and questioning techniques. Our four witnesses had to ensure they gave an accurate account of their part in the 'evening in question' and not stray from the facts outlined in their statements. The defence and prosecution lawyers carefully posed questions to the witnesses to extract the information required to build their case. Our legal advisor liaised between the court and magistrates and provided a succinct summary of proceedings at the end of the trial. The role of our magistrates was to listen to all the evidence laid out in court and come to an impartial decision about the charge. Our usher authoritatively kept order in the courtroom and ensured everyone followed the correct proceedings.

The team from Fairlands took part in the local heats at North Somerset Magistrates' Court in March and gave such a convincing performance that they won. They are through to the Regional Heats in May. Ben Skelton should be congratulated as he was awarded the prize as 'Best Prosecution Lawyer.' We look forward to receiving the next case details in April and seeing the 'Legal Eagle' team again in action next term.

*Kate Persaud, Becky Coggins and Kathy Trinel.*

## DT and PE Enrichment Day

The sun was shining for the PE and DT enrichment day. The pupils were treated to a two hour PE lesson, of their choice, a two hour DT lesson and a sporting presentation. Year 5 and Year 6 were first for PE. They participated in activities such as gymnastics, basketball, frisbee, cricket, netball, rugby, golf, sports injury, sports journalism and inclusion sports. They spent the afternoon planting seeds and learning about vegetables. The Year 7 and Year 8 pupils spent the morning making pasta or bread followed by an afternoon of different sports including judo.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and pupils, with many commenting how they intend to continue with their new found skill.

*Vicky Evans, Curriculum Leader for PE and Kim Rowlinson, Curriculum Leader for DT/ICT*



## Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

If any parents/carers have a safeguarding concern, please phone Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead, or Rob Cooling, Oliver Crandon, Felicity Grant and Sally Virgin, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads on 01934 743186. Alternatively, when school is closed please call Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 or email [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk).

## Art

### CHAFF - Cheddar Arts Fringe Festival 2019

We are pleased to announce that Fairlands is taking part in this year's Cheddar Arts Fringe Festival, which takes place over May Day Bank Holiday weekend. Year 6 ceramic work will be on display in some of the village shop windows and we will be 'yarn-bombing' the Market Cross with hundreds, maybe thousands, of colourful pom poms made by pupils and staff. If you would like to donate any unwanted wool, or make pom poms at home for the project that would be fantastic! There is a pom-pom making workshop afterschool on Tuesday 23rd April for both staff and pupils.

### Afterschool clay workshop

A group of pupils (and staff) across all years recently took part in an afterschool clay workshop. Pupils each created a small terracotta pot which they decorated, then painted with their own weird and wonderful designs!

*Olivia Soulson, Curriculum Leader for Art*



## English



### AF Harrold Visit

On Thursday 17 January, we were lucky enough to have a visit from the children's poet and author, AF Harrold, organised through the Wells Literary Festival. Prior to his visit, he had been sending us postcards with examples of his poems from his book "Things You Find in a Poet's Beard" so we knew we would be in for an entertaining morning!

Mr Harrold gave a presentation in the hall where he talked about his life as a poet and performed some poems. We especially liked the poems, "I Want to be a Wallaby" and "You are the Jam in my Rice Pudding." He really played with language with his use of metaphors and homophones which had us all roaring with laughter – teachers as well! After assembly he did a workshop with some Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. He gave the class a sentence starter, 'If I ran the school and told the class to think of the most ludicrous things

possible.' We all tremendously enjoyed his visit and he really inspired us to write more poetry.

*Finn Hacker, Alex Nash and Toby Cuckson*

### World Book Day

Earlier this month, we celebrated World Book Day with a range of whole school activities. Children and staff looked fantastic in their costumes, which ranged from Willy Wonka to the Hungry Caterpillar and covered everything in between! We have been impressed with the entries for the Book in a Box competition and pupils are currently in the process of voting for their favourites – watch this space! The book swap was extremely successful with over 400 books finding a new owner: this is definitely something we will do more regularly.

Thank you for supporting this important part of the school calendar.

*Laura Hinchcliffe, Curriculum Leader for English*

## Maths

The Maths Challenge was a great experience, we thrived in the cross-number but found the shuttle very problematic. Even though we may not have got through to the next round, we all enjoyed it very much (especially the relay and shortbread). The group round was also challenging, but we believe that we did quite well considering we were up against Year 9s.

Although we may not have achieved the highest amount of points, we all feel as a team that it wouldn't have been as fun if all the questions were really easy. Mrs Mazi Thomas was very supportive and we thank her for being our chauffeur. One last thing; which king loved fractions? Henry the 1/8!

*The Year 8 Maths Challenge Team*

## Science

### British Science Week

The week of March 11 was British Science Week and to celebrate the science department held a science in a tray competition. Pupils had to produce a display of some aspect of science that interested them. It could be about anything they liked as long as the display fitted in a standard science tray. As expected, Fairlands pupils did not disappoint. There were displays on subjects as diverse as how your lungs work to the possibility of travelling to another point in space through a worm hole. All entries were put on display and the rest of the school were invited to vote on their favourite. The pupils with the greatest number of votes got a free trip to either the Big Bang Live science exhibition at the Birmingham NEC or to the Bath Taps Science Festival at Bath University.

### Big Bang Live

Thirteen winning pupils from Years 7 and 8 made the journey to the opening day of the Big Bang Live science exhibition on Wednesday 13 March. On arriving, they made their way, together with hundreds of other schools, into a hall bigger than the whole of Fairlands Middle School crammed with experiments, demonstrations, live shows and scientists. Among the great things to see and do, was a F1 race car and one of the Red Arrows aeroplanes. One the most interesting stalls was the one by Glaxo Smith Kline where pupils had the opportunity to use chemistry to make their own skin cream.

### Bath Taps Science Festival

The fifteen winning pupils from Years 5 and 6 visited Bath University on Friday 15 March to meet with university students, science lecturers and professors. Among the fantastic hands on science available, the pupils had the opportunity to learn about and handle giant rainforest invertebrates, as well as other cutting edge experiments in physics and chemistry.

*John Virgin, Curriculum Leader for Science*

### International Aid for the Protection & Welfare of Animals (IAPWA) 'Hear Them' Competition

Children from Years 5 and 6 took part in the IAPWA 'hear them' competition. Putting themselves in the position of the endangered rhinos and elephants, they had to put forward their concerns and solutions to the problems encountered by these animals. Short video clips were collated and sent to Carla Fraser (actress and film director) and were then put into a video collage and played on the big screen at the recent IAPWA conference at the National Geographic Centre in London. Fairlands was awarded best video and the school received a free complimentary subscription to the National Geographic magazine. Well done!

*Colin Heath, Teacher of Science*

## PE

### Girls

The girls have been working hard on their netball this term. Each year group has had the opportunity to participate in at least one fixture after school. The annual derby against Hugh Sexey started the season off with the girls in all years performing exceptionally, resulting in a win for Year 8 and a draw for Year 6.

The Year 8 girls competed in the qualifiers for the Somerset County Cup. They played superbly beating off some stiff competition to win every game and qualify for the finals held at Millfield School.

The Year 7 and Year 8 girls were also given the opportunity to participate in a rugby festival at Yeovil RFC. It was wonderful to see 12 teams from schools across Somerset giving girls the opportunity to play in a competitive manner. The girls played three matches winning each one comfortably and racking up a total of 30 tries between them.

### Boys

The boys have been predominately playing football this term with all years playing. Year 8 boys played the Blue School and Hugh Sexey in the Somerset league. In both games, the boys played superbly, showing real determination against some tough opposition. Unfortunately, they lost both games but the score lines really did not reflect the effort put in by all on the day. The Year 7 boys were slightly more successful against Hugh Sexey holding them to a 2-2 draw. Again, it was a tough game but the boys held their own throughout the game.

The annual Year 5 games against Millfield went ahead with two teams going head to head. The boys love playing this game, especially on a sunny afternoon at home. The results really reflected the boys strong determination with Fairlands A-team drawing 2-2 and Fairlands B-team walking away with a very convincing 5-1 win.

### Millfield Football

Not exhausted by two late night play performances, three teams of Year 5 pupils travelled to a gusty Millfield for the annual under 10 tournament. Fairlands A-team found themselves against some strong opposition but put in brave performances. Fairlands Rovers entered the B-team competition and came a very respectable third, their highlight being a 5-0 win over Millfield. Fairlands United were also in the B-team competition and managed to win every game and came out overall winners of their competition. A huge thank you to the pupils for playing on a Saturday after such a busy week and the parents for their fantastic support.

### Mixed hockey

Last half term, ten Year 5 and Year 6 pupils travelled to Wells Cathedral School to compete in the qualifying stages of the County Cup. The team played brilliantly in some very wet and cold conditions to secure a place in the County finals at Millfield School.

### Gymnastics

Congratulations to Sam Austin, Millie Money, Caitlin Teagle and Elana Wood for representing Fairlands in the South West Schools tumbling competition. They all performed exceptionally, well done.

### House matches

Every year group had the opportunity to participate this term in house matches. The boys played football and the girls played netball. It was wonderful to see so many pupils participating.

### Step into Sport Leadership Day

Eight pupils from Year 8 were given the opportunity to travel to Westfield School in Yeovil and participate in leadership workshops joined by Kate Grey, a Sky Sports presenter and paralympic athlete. They developed their ability to lead in sport, working on communication and organisational skills. They finished the day by making pledges to create/develop inclusive sessions back at school.

During the recent enrichment day, they also received further support from Carly Martin, the organiser of the workshop, to help develop ideas further and help them to implement them in school.

Thank you very much for your continued support in PE. Can I please remind all parents that pupils should return after Easter in their summer kit. Can I also please ask that it is named as we are still receiving lots of unnamed kit that we would love to hand back to their rightful owners.

*Vicky Evans, Curriculum Leader for PE*

### Stop Press

**At the Spring Games, the Year 5 & Year 6 mixed hockey team came second and the Year 8 girls netball team came fourth in the County. Some excellent performances, well done.**

## Volunteers Needed for PROMISE

PROMISE are currently looking for mentors in the Cheddar Valley area to join their team, as there is a huge deficit of support in our area. They are especially looking for ex-teachers or anyone who is interested in supporting and making a difference to young people's lives.

PROMISE supports a team of trained volunteers who provide a Somerset-wide mentoring service for some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in the County. Further details can be found on [www.promiseworks.org.uk](http://www.promiseworks.org.uk)

## Charity Activities

### Knitting and Crochet

A group of pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8 have been working hard at lunchtimes to knit and crochet items for charity. So far, they have made hats, scarves, sensory muffs and blanket squares which will be donated to organisations that need them. The pupils involved have knitted on both looms and needles, with some trying out crochet too. We are grateful for any donations of yarn and wool, even little amounts can be used. If you have knitting looms at home that are not used, we would gratefully receive those too.

*Sally Virgin, Curriculum Leader for Music*



Thank you to everyone who supported our fund raising for Comic Relief on Friday 15 March. We collected an amazing £1589.48 from our red nose sales, non-uniform donations, sponsored aerobics and a cake sale.

We continue to value the support that both families and pupils give to our nominated charitable activities.

*Pauline Ham, Finance Manager*

