

Farney Close School

Christmas 2007 Newsletter

From The Head

On returning from the summer holidays it was really noticeable how well the vast majority of pupils settled. They were quickly focussed on their school work and soon picked up on their relationships with adults. This year's year 11 soon established themselves as a positive group and their commitment to their Friday work experience is in the main, positive.

It has been a long term but as usual has sped by.

For those of you that are unable to make it to the Christmas entertainment on the 19th I wish you a wonderful Christmas – lets hope that Santa brings you all that you have asked for.

Regards
Barry.

From The Deputy Head

We've come to the end of another very hectic term that seems to have flown past us. The nights have got longer and the weather colder but everything at school remains upbeat. The Christmas production is upon us. Pupils and staff have been practicing since September to learn the steps to dances that will make up Farneys very own Strictly Come Dancing. No carols this year, we are trying something totally different and hopefully it will be memorable for those watching as well as those participating. Our gospel singers continue to practice and perform with Ciggy at the helm and our Music Teacher, Hazel Childs, has the pupils attempting to play instruments as well as sing. Maybe by this time next year we'll have them performing as part of our production.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas gathering to celebrate the end of a successful 2007.

Have a great Christmas and Happy Holiday,

Angie

Fundraising

As usual we have been very busy raising money for activities and education resources for the children. We have had a couple of coffee mornings and are looking forward to another one on Saturday 22nd December in our local town of Burgess Hill.

We had a stall at the local rugby club fun day in the summer and despite it being a wet, cold day we made a reasonable amount of money.

The summer open day was a successful event not only by way of celebrating the children's successes and providing opportunity for parents and carers to meet members of staff here but also from a fund raising point of view with people enjoying the stalls and activities offered.

We are in the process of planning our fund raising for 2008 so if anyone has any ideas we would love you share them with us.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas from the Fundraising Coordinators

Clare Speed and Sue Horscroft.



From The Care Manager

Let me start by wishing you all a really Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This term has seen the usual activities being taken up by the children with extras offered such as "a lets party girls night", going to the theatre to watch "Life of a B Boy" and the younger ones went to Lego-land for the day, thanks to the local Roundtable. We are in the process of looking sat how we can revamp the activities we offer. We have already arranged that some of our young people will be attending a local youth club to access activities such as dance and music sessions where we will get access to a recording studio.

The national anti bullying week was recognised at Farney by each house group undertaking projects to further raise the awareness of bullying issues. One of these projects was a competition and production of an anti bullying leaflet, a copy of which is enclosed. Various other projects were successful with the girls holding an assembly about bullying issues and the older boys making a film on this subject. The younger lads did events such as competitions and games. As a result of the work completed on anti bullying by all the young people and staff we have entered the Sussex Safe Schools competition and are awaiting news as to whether we have reached the finals or not – fingers crossed.

Earlier this month we were also visited by the National Healthy Schools Team and as a result of this with have qualified for healthy schools status. Obviously we are very proud of this and look forward to being officially presented with our certificate and Plaque in the New Year.

The care team remains static with the exception of Jennie and Jan who have now moved on. Mandy has already started with us and Laura starts after Christmas. Welcome to both of them.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Wednesday but to those I don't see – enjoy your Christmas,

Regards from Sara.



All of the children are due back to school for 9am on
Wednesday 9th January 2008.



Could you please ensure that your child returns to school with full uniform and that school shoes are checked to ensure that they still fit and are in good condition.

Please remind your child to hand in their mobiles as soon as they get into school, if they bring them back with them, and to ask staff to look after any valuables they have.

We have had some incidents of Head lice in the school this half term. To ensure that we do not have further incidents we would ask that you check your child's hair before they return. I have enclosed information regarding what to look for when searching for Head Lice and how to deal with them.

Can I also ask that you do not send your child in with a casual top to wear instead of a coat. Our definitions of casual tops are hoodies and sports jackets. We do not allow casual tops to be worn during the school day so they will need coats to keep them warm during break times. They can wear their casual tops during the evenings. It is vital that all children have coats for this term as I am sure you can imagine how cold it gets here. I would also add that we will **not** allow children to have the new trend of coats that are going around which are referred to as "goggle coats". A news article about these coats is enclosed to clarify what we are referring to. Any child who brings one of these back will have it confiscated.

Thank you for your support with these matters.

Sara Hack
Care Manager