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# Farney Close Newsletter Summer 2010

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## Message from the Head:

As always at this time of year I feel very focused on those pupils who are leaving school in Year 11, many of whom have been at the school for quite a number of years. In doing this, I ask myself if we have done enough to help them leave and be sufficiently confident, informed and equipped to face the new challenges they will have. Of course, you "cannot be all things to all men" and we do not have a "magic wand" to wave and make everything perfect. Like all people, there will always be some pupils who will be better at dealing with the demands of change in a better way than others and there will

always be some who will grasp and use what we have tried to offer them and some that will be resistant. Having said this, when I look at the "nuts and bolts" of the situation, overall I feel quite positive that we have offered the best we could.

We have recently achieved Investors in Careers status, which is a very rigorous system that expects schools to identify and put in place a wide variety of strategies to support pupils leaving school and moving into College or work, beginning from Year 7 through to Year 11.

This year, I am also pleased to see that we achieved our

fifth consecutive outstanding judgement from Ofsted. I know that all of you will have had a copy of the report, which speaks about the quality of care we offer in glowing terms. Looking at this consistent and sustained level of judgement made by Ofsted, I can tell you that amongst other similar schools this achievement is very rare. I hope then that together with our high expectations and provision in education, it gives you all confidence and hope for your child whilst they are at the school and please remember that whenever you may have a concern either myself, Angie or Sara are more than happy to listen to them.

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## Farney Close School

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### **This newsletter consists of the following news items:**

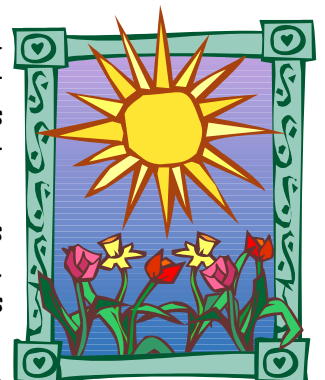
- ☺ Message from the Head
- ☺ Message from the Care Manager
- ☺ Exam results 2008/09
- ☺ Voluntary work news
- ☺ Fundraising update
- ☺ Anti Bullying 2009
- ☺ News on our Community project

## Message from the Care Manager:

I hope that you enjoy the new format for our newsletter. I apologize for the lack of newsletter at Christmas and Easter but hope that you enjoyed the Recipe book that we sent out at Christmas. As you can imagine it has been a very busy couple of terms with, as Barry mentioned, us starting the Spring term with a Care Ofsted Inspection as well as it being an important term with regards to preparing the year 11s for moving on from us.

We have enjoyed the lighter nights this term and in the main the good weather that has accompanied them. We have been able to get out and about more during the evenings i.e. beach trips, mountain biking, fishing, walking, canoeing and other outward bound activities as extra to all the usual activities we offer.

I hope to see many of you on open day (Saturday 17th July) but to those who can not make it can I take this opportunity to wish you a really happy, sunny Summer Holiday.



## Voluntary Work:

Several of our year 10s and 11s have been going to help out at a school local to us for young people who have profound disabilities. This started just a year and a half ago and has provided an excellent opportunity for our young people to work for others who require a far higher level of care than they do.

All of our young people that attend have volunteered their time and without exception they have all gained from the experience with some showing a natural flare for caring for others.

Initially Laura from the Care Team coordinated this work but now that she has left us I am pleased to say that Dawn has taken over allowing this rewarding voluntary work to continue.

## Activity Week:

Activity week went really well. Again this year. With our year 11s on study leave and our year 10s on work experience we treated the remaining pupils to a week full of "educational" activities such as camping, Isle of Wight, Fishing, London Dungeons, Butlins, Mexican Cookery, Science Museum, Knockhatch activity centre, Animal Welfare sanctuary, London Aquarium, Mountain Biking, Ice Skating, Mercedes Benz Museum and Swimming.

All trips went really well with a good time had by all.

## Year 11:

We wish the very best to all our Year 11s who have now finished their exams left us to pursue various courses at colleges local to home.

Their Leavers assembly was as usual emotional with numerous moving speeches were made by the leavers. The school choir gave them a rousing send off and Leeann sang her last solo as a pupil at Farney nearly reducing the whole audience to tears!

Good Luck Year 11 and Keep in touch.

## Exam results 2008 / 2009:

### Farney Close Examination Results 2008 – 2009

#### GCSE grades and percentages:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
0%	0%	4%	21%	27%	32%	16%

#### Entry Level grades and percentages:

Distinction	Merit	Pass
54%	26%	20%

#### Context: 22 Year 11 pupils on roll

Every pupil in the year group took a combination of GCSE and Entry Level subjects.

218 examinations were passed in total, of which 73 were at GCSEs and 145 were at Entry Level.

The average number of examinations taken by pupils was **10.80 per pupil**.

The number of GCSEs taken by the pupils has increased by comparison to last year.

#### Comment:

We believe that the range and number of examinations available to pupils at Farney Close, at all levels, is outstanding and that many other similar special schools would not be able to replicate this opportunity for its pupils.

We believe that the results achieved by the pupils is a strong reflection of how much academic and social progress our pupils make during the time they attend the school. This is a particularly important comment to recognise when one considers that many of the pupils who come to us have previously been dismissed by their various previous schools as under-achievers and unlikely to be able to take any examinations at all.

## Fund raising for others and for us:

I would like to thank all of you that have supported us in our funding raising for others events over 2009 either in supplying cakes, tombola prizes or by offering your support more generally. Back in March 2009 you helped us raise in excess of £650 for Red Nose day and then again in November 2009 we managed to raise nearly £400 for Children in Need.



On both occasions we held stalls in the local town of Burgess Hill selling our home made cakes (the majority were cooked in class by our young people), running a tombola and collecting donations from the public. Our thanks go to The Martlets shopping centre in Burgess Hill for allowing us to hold our stalls at no charge.

Fund raising continues for school projects Two pottery wheels have been purchased with the support from our local Waitrose store who donated £400 for this cause. Fundraising at our Christmas concert also helped to support this.

Most of the Houses now have Wii consoles which have been part funded through fund raising and supports in our encouraging the young people to have a healthy life style. In further support of this the IG3 gardening project has also been part funded by fundraising money as well as much appreciated donations.

We are already starting to arrange our summer open day which this year will take place on Saturday 17th July. As usual friends and family will all be welcomed—details about timing and events to follow but donations for tombola, raffle and white elephant / bric & brac stalls would be welcomed at any time from now onwards with cake donations required nearer the time ; items to be given to Clare or Sara.

## Farney's community project:

IG3 have continued with their gardening project that they started last year. There are great plans this year with it having been expanded and various methods put in place to stop the rabbits and other Farney wild life from nibbling at the vegetables as it appears. Those of you that are able to attend our Open day will hopefully be able to purchase some "home grown" veg (all organic of-course).

Richard is further expanding his gardening project this year into the local community; over the summer months he plans to take some of our young people out to local peoples homes who through ill health or age are unable to attend to their own gardens and generally help them out. Any local people who know of someone who may be struggling to maintain their garden due to reasons mentioned please get hold of Richard on the school number and he will see if we can help them out. This service is obvious free of charge but people would need to provide their own seeds, plants etc.

Any donations of tools you no longer require, seeds or flowers would be gratefully received.



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## General Information:

All of the Children are due back to school for 9am on Thursday 2nd September 2010.

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 a wearable condition. Pumps are not allowed as school shoes.

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 which we have treated. To ensure that we do not have further incidents we would ask that you check your child's hair before they return.

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.

Thank you for your support with these matters.

## Anti Bullying Week October 2009:

Anti Bullying week is always an important part of the work we do. We obviously do work on anti bullying all year round but during national anti bullying week we have particular projects to further support the work we do. One such project involved the designing of anti bullying posters for our yearly addition of the schools anti bullying pamphlet. This year Oliver Brown won first prize with Jon Mitchell taking second. With had some excellent entries and thank everyone who entered for doing so.

The parents/carers of the young people who were present at the school in November received a letter from the Head regarding ways of ensuring your child is not the subject of cyber bullying. If you have not received this letter please let us know and we will forward one to you.

