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# Farney Close Newsletter Christmas 2011

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## Message from the Head (Barry):

Yet another busy term at Farney Close is coming to an end. We have had several new pupils this term who have settled into school life and are joining the rest of the pupils in achieving well both during the school day and in the evenings.

I have no Inspection to comment on at the moment. However I have no doubt that Ofsted will visit us once we return from the Christmas break.

I hope to see many of you at the Farney Christmas concert but I wish those who are unable to attend a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Message from the Care Manager (Sara):

It has been a busy term for the Care Team making the most of the mild Autumn and getting out and about with the young people. As you go through this Newsletter you will hear about all the exciting events that have been going on.

The decoration plan of the houses has been completed and we have just moved our 6th formers into a newly refurbished bungalow that is completely independent to the school. The 6th form is a new project for the school and one that we plan to build on as a means of supporting up to 4 of our pupils at a time as they leave school and move onto college / work. Anyone interested in their child attending our 6th form when they leave should contact Barry to discuss the possibility.

We are busy getting ready for our Farney Christmas and looking forward to Decs going up and the Post Box going out for those who bring Christmas Cards into school. The Christmas Carol service, Christmas Lunch and party tea are all organised and rehearsals are taking shape— it will be a night to remember for all of you who can attend and you will most certainly leave us feeling very Christmassy!

I would like to finish by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all of the Care Team.

Don't forget to check out our new website which not only gives you general information about the school but also relays up to date news about events concerning the school

[Www.farneyclose.co.uk](http://www.farneyclose.co.uk)

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Newsletter Date  
December 2011

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

- ☺ Message from the Head
- ☺ Message from the Care Manager
- ☺ Message from the Deputy
- ☺ Exam Results
- ☺ Children in Need
- ☺ Cultural Awareness Month
- ☺ Anti bullying Week
- ☺ Activities
- ☺ General Info.

## Message from the Deputy (Angie):

This has been quite a difficult term for the education staff due to staff illness. A depleted workforce for a three week period just before  $\frac{1}{2}$  term due to ill health meant that staff had to rallied together and with everyone's support, including some thoughtful interventions from the care team, we were able to manage until everyone was back at work without any real disruption to pupils education.

Generally pupils have been very motivated and have enjoyed extra educational input from a variety of sources. For example the PSHE department has been working closely this term with the Fire department and lots of interactive work has taken place, culminating in a trip for the year 11's to Chichester to watch a hard hitting production of some of life's difficulties.

The year 11's are moving towards their mock exams which will take place in January and the year 10's are about to start their controlled tests for English GCSE's.

Christmas is fast approaching and many pupils are practising for the annual production, this year will hopefully be as successful as those that have gone before and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December for a 6pm start (coffee / tea and mince pies will be served before hand).

I would like to finish by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all of the Education Staff.

## Exam Results 2011

The exam results achieved by last years year 11 are as follows:

No of GCSE's taken	No of Entry Level exams	Average number of exams taken per pupil	Average GCSE Grade
58	111	10.6	F

- 16 Pupils took exams at the end of June 2011
- Everyone achieved at least 1 GCSE
- 5 Pupils achieved 5 GCSE's

## **Children in Need:**

We feel strongly that it is important for our young people to recognize the needs of others and our supporting Children in Need is an excellent way of doing this. Thank you to those parents who donated tombola items. Five young people joined four members of the care team in running a tombola and cake stall in our local town. Numerous of our young people also gave up their activity time to make the cake that we sold. As usual the young people who attend the event were excellent ambassadors and we raised a grand total of just under £350.

## **Culture Awareness Month:**

During the month of October we celebrated the cultures that attend our school. There were a range of activities to help people identify with a variety of cultures. Throughout the month we had evening meals dedicated to various cultures such as the West Indies, Indian, Hungary and America. Various competitions were held to increase people knowledge and understanding plus a task for people to design a flag for the school. Many young people took part in these activities and enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about other cultures.

Trixis Mini Beasts brought creatures from around the world including Madagascan Cockroaches, Mexican Red Knee tarantula as well as numerous other creepy crawlies. The young people were somewhat braver than the adults when it came to handling these creatures!

The World Drum Workshop came in and worked with the whole school (including staff). Many of the young people (and staff) participated in learning about then playing instruments from around the world including places such as West Africa and Brazil. The day ended with two performances given by our young people on the instruments they had learnt to play during the day.

Photos of these events are soon to appear on our Website.

## **Anti Bullying Week:**

The focus of this years national anti bullying week was on stopping verbal comments. We work with young people all year round to ensure that bullying is addressed and kept to the minimum but we like the opportunity to focus our efforts when the rest of the schools in the country are also doing so. Various activities were held including a thought provoking assemble which encouraged people to look at the impact that verbal bullying can have.

## **Activities:**

Whilst our focus for activities this term has been Culture Awareness Month and Anti Bullying Week we have still managed to also offer some excellent activities after the school day has ended. We have continued to run our normal range of activities but have also attended an "Urban Night" at a local school where our young people printed T-Shirts, bags and canvases whilst learning how to DJ and various other activities. Scuba diving took place recently and we also held a Young Women's evening at the school where the girls could have their hair curled, nails painted, make outfits and jewelry and also turn their hand to hula hooping! We are now in full Christmas mode with activities being planned, Christmas Cakes having been made and rehearsals for the Christmas show well underway.

## Adverse Weather Conditions:

We are fast approaching the time of year when we may experience heavy snow - in such an event we may be forced to close the school at short notice. This is a decision that is not taken lightly but is based on many factors, for example - whether the school pathways and roads are safe; if sufficient staff can make their journey into school safely; if it would be safe to expect taxis and pupils to travel to school. If a decision is made to close school we will inform parents and carers at the earliest opportunity by:-

Updating our school website and

We will also email to all parents/carers via our Call Parent system. (Please sign up to this system if you have not already done so by contacting the school directly).

## General Information:

All of the Children are due back to school for 9am on Thursday 5th January 2012.

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. Please be reminded that 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.

## Contact Details:

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