

Farney Close School **Summer 2008 Newsletter**

Welcome to our Summer 2008 Newsletter. It has been a relatively quiet term with this half term just flying by. Obviously the year 11s must have been louder and more noticeable than we realised! All joking apart the adults at Farney wish them all the best in whichever path they chose to follow. They were a popular group and will be missed.

Exams for both the year 11s and year 9s went well and we look forward to getting these results back. Educationally it has been a term where people have worked consistently well and in the main remained focussed within the classroom.

The weather during this summer term has been kinder to us than last year so we have been able to utilise lighter nights to ensure that people get out and about enjoying themselves whist out of the classroom.

The week before half term saw our year 11s depart on study leave, our year 10s go on work experience and the remainder of the school had a week full of a variety of activities. Two of the house groups went camping over this week. Both of these were very successful trips with both the children and staff returning exhausted but having had a really good time. Plans are already being made for next year!

Some activities were held on site whilst several day trips also took place i.e. Fishing, Swimming, Cooking, Model making, Amberley Chalk Museum and also the Isle of Wight. To enable you to share in how much was gained from some of these activities we have decided to not keep with our usual format for this newsletter but share with you two of the activity week experiences as follows on the next pages.

This years Open Day is quickly approaching and I hope to see as many of you there as are able to make it. It is a great opportunity for you to catch up with the adults here, discuss the end of year report that you will have received by then and generally enjoy a day in the Sussex countryside taking part in the stalls and sideshows that we will have laid on. However if you are unable to attend I will take this opportunity to wish you a happy, relaxed summer. We look forward to seeing the children back with us on Thursday 4th September 2008 for 9am.

Regards

Sara Hack (Care Manager)

**Our Day Trip to the Isle of Wight:
(Which just so happens to be the birth place of
Farney Close School!)**

We boarded the Ferry at Portsmouth Harbour at 11am and cruised across to the Isle of Wight in glorious conditions aboard a luxury Wight Link Ferry. As the boys relaxed and took in the historic views from the deck we discussed the history of the three forts strategically placed to protect the beautiful coast line from French invasion.

We landed in the Isle of Wight at approximately 12.00pm and took a slow drive down to the Needles on the far west of the island. On arrival we set up camp and enjoyed a sumptuous picnic created by the Ladies in the Kitchen at the school that very morning. Fresh sandwiches, fruit and sausage rolls were devoured as we discussed the prospects of travelling down the Needles via cable car and skimming stones on the beach.

We travelled down the Needles on cable car. Some closed their eyes, others held on tight. Us, we giggled and laughed enjoying every minute of Elaine Richards (staff) being absolutely petrified of heights and shaking with fear. Whilst on the beach the boys enjoyed skimming stones, taking in the sea air.

We travelled back up the Needles in equal fashion to our decent and made sand ornaments for our loved ones and Barry!!! We headed over to the Glass Making Factory and learnt all about how to make vases, paper weights and Ashtrays!!!

The educational aspects were well behind us as we relaxed with a friendly game of Golf. Pitch and Putt to be more precise. We all had our handicaps, mine being me, and we set off on a 9 hole adventure. Bradley used power and Jake used accuracy but, Daniel was smart, he used golf clubs!!! We made it to the end without an injury to be seen and Jake was the winner so we all ate ice cream.

We travelled swiftly on to the ferry port and back to Portsmouth for dinner. A fish supper was welcomed by us all and we ate them by a pond from our laps. We got back to school at around 8 o'clock and Daniel had a day which he said was a 10 out of 10.

All the boys were great fun and an excellent day was had by all.

Somervilles camping and Longleat expedition.

We eventually arrived at the campsite early Monday evening for three days of educational fun as follows!

After getting lost several times, some might say we were a "Thicket of idiots".

But the tents went up and our hastiness of cooks prepare our healthy eating dinner!

We went to explore several Groves of trees in the woods



And our Gratitude of juniors returned tired and ready for an Anthology of stories before bed.

On day 2, we all got up tired and cold, but sorted out an Agenda of tasks, ate our breakfast, prepared our packed lunch and included a Bunch of bananas. Then we took out the Heap of trash before setting off for Longleat.

First we had to board the Longleat bus and head into the safari park.

Our first encounter was with a Tower of giraffes.



There were only 2 camels with the giraffes, so it was not really a Flock, Herd, Caravan or Train. Nor was there enough to have a Dazzle, Herd or Zeal of zebras!

But the mad, car-chasing Ostrich had an impressive Clutch of eggs

Our next stop saw a Flamboyance of flamingos and a Venue of vultures.



There were many Herds.....

Cattle
Bovine
Antelope
Deer

Of course, there was a Troop of monkeys!
A Swift or Ambush of tigers!



A Pride of lions, with one chasing off a Murder of crows (or was it a Building or Clamour of rooks?)



We only just saw the Pack of wolves, as the keepers could not cut the grass, in fear of mowing the new Litter of cubs in there somewhere!
And the lions were the finale to the 2½ hour guided tour.
So did we miss anything?

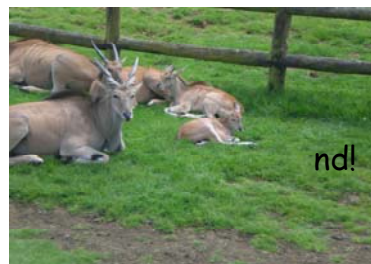
Oh, there was a Crash or Herd of Rhinos!



And a trivia question?



What animal throughout the entire park are the keepers most scared of?



Ela

nd!

We went on the motion simulator and saw a Bevy of beauties in the mirror maze!

Then we had a look at the house itself.

The land, with the priory that was on the site, was bought in 1541 for £53!

It is now the home to the 7th Marquess of Bath.

You may have expected our Blush of boys to become a Shrivel of Critics, but they were quite interested and asked some good questions!



Time to board the safari boat to go to Gorilla land

Nico, is now on his own
And too old to go back
To a Band of Gorillas

But he does have some company.....

A Pod of seals
and a Bloat of Hippopotami



Plus, just on the nearby shore was a very playful mob of meerkats. The day at Longleat was completed by running wild in the adventure playground and Dodging a low flying

Colony of bats.

Jason was the only one to solve the hedge maze without cheating!



Then...

Back to the campsite to be invaded
By a Cloud of Gnats and kept awake
By a Descent of Woodpeckers!

Before heading home the following day, we went for wander up Cley Hill
And that completes our little expedition

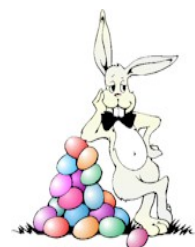
- A Fantastic trip thanks to our very own Galaxy of Stars!



General Information

All of the Children are due back to school for 9am on
Thursday 5th September 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 a wearable 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 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.

Thank you for your support with these matters.

Sara