

Farney Close School

Christmas 2008 Newsletter



From The Head

Christmas has come around again so quickly. It doesn't seem that long since we were watching last year's brilliant Come Dancing Competition,

Since I wrote to you in the last newsletter the summer leaver have obviously left us and gone on to colleges in their home areas. All in all they were very successful in their examinations, with 45 GCSEs being taken, which is the equivalent of 3.75 per pupil. 100% all pupils achieved 2 A-G examinations, whilst 5 pupils achieved 5 A-G at GCSE. At Entry Level 77 examinations were taken, of which 34 achieved at Distinction level and 24 at Merit level. Taking all of the examination together, the year group took 132 examinations in total, which means that on average 11 examinations were taken by each pupil. This is the highest number taken by any year group since 1996, when we first began to collate our records.

To me, and I hope to you, these achievements clearly indicate the excellent progress made by many, many pupils over the time they are with us. I also believe that it shows how effective our staff and you are in giving your children better opportunities than they might have had before they came to Farney Close.

Just as positively, as the year has come to a close, you will know from the Ofsted questionnaire sent out to you at the end of November that the school had a joint Education and Care inspection. Although I am not supposed to discuss much of the final report until it is officially published by Ofsted, I can tell you that the results were excellent.

The overall judgment was that the school's provision for Education and Care were both "Outstanding". As many of you who have had children at the school for sometime will know, this outcome is a continuation and confirmation of the previous similar inspection outcomes in May 2006 and January 2008, when the school was also previously judged to be Outstanding. I hope for you, as parents and carers that it gives you confidence that your child is in the right place and that they are receiving the best support to help them succeed. Although admittedly we will never be able to get it right all of the time, it does make me feel proud; proud of the work of all of the staff at the school, and proud of all of the pupils who are making so much positive progress.

I look forward to sending you a copy of the report once it is published in the New Year. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. Take care of yourselves.

Barry Robinson, Head.



From The Deputy Head

As we find the Autumn term drawing to a close, it is time again to reflect on what has happened over the term.

Preparations are ongoing for the End of Year production with pupils and staff working very hard to try and put everything in place. This year, it revolves around songs from the musicals and our choir is packed with not only pupils but education and care staff. Hopefully, it will prove to be as successful as last year's production.

I am sure it has already been reported on but the unmitigated success of our joint Ofsted inspection this year reflects the efforts of our dedicated staff in both the Education and Care departments of the school. The pupils responses and attitudes also reflect the wonderful success the school has achieved so I'd like to say a well deserved congratulations to everyone involved with the school, pupils and staff alike, and on the positive note wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Angie Bainbridge
Deputy Head

From the Care Manager



Let me start by wishing you all a really Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has as always been a busy term with the usual activities being taken up by the children with extras offered such as "a lets party girls night", scuba diving and a basket ball tournament.

The national anti bullying week was recognised again this year at Farney by each house group undertaking projects to further raise the awareness of bullying issues. One of these projects a poster competition enabling us to update our anti bullying leaflet. Various other projects were successful with three people having their T Shirt designs duplicated onto T Shirts. Sue's house held a quiz night regarding bullying issues which was attended by all houses; Franks won the lower school competition whilst Kings took first place for Upper school. Various other anti bullying activities took place on houses with all houses also taking part in the production of the schools Anti bullying Calendar which has been a new project for us this year. A copy of the Calendar is being sent home to the young people's main residence with the compliments of the school. Should anyone like further copies please tell your child's Link-Worker and we will be able to provide extra copies at a cost of £3 a calendar. The work that we have completed on anti bullying has meant that we can again enter the "Safe Place" competition that we won last year.

The care team remains static with the exception of Mandy who is about to go onto maternity leave. We wish her all the best with her imminent arrival but don't envy her the sleepless nights and dirty nappies!

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

With regards,
Sara.

General Information



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.

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.

Thank you for your support with these matters.

We look forward to seeing all your children back with us for 9am on Wednesday 7th January 2009.

Sara Hack,
Care Manager

The staff at Farney Close School wish you
and yours a very happy Christmas and
prosperous 2009.