

Farsley Farfield Primary School



Curriculum News

November 2012

Standards reach new heights

The summer assessment data for the school was very good. We have previously reported on pleasing Y2 SATs and very good progress in Years 3-5. We can now add that the Reception cohort last year attained the most highly of any we have had in terms of the percentage of children reaching a 'Good Level of Development' (62%).

Year 6 SATs results this year were very strong: the percentage of children achieving above average level 5 was, itself, well above national average, especially in English! The pupils' 'average point score' was significantly above the national average, as was the percentage of children making 2 levels of progress in KS2. Progress and attainment in reading was very pleasing - due, in part, to the success of Extreme Reading. Well done to the staff and children!

Year		2008	2009	2010*	2011	2012
All Subjects	Cohort	46	50	-	42	50
	School	28.7	29.5	-	28.2	29.5
	National	27.9	27.8	27.4	27.5	28.2
	Difference	0.8	1.7	-	0.7	1.3
	Significance	Sig+	Sig+	-	-	Sig+

It's good to be green: Our pupils' 'average points score' at the end of Y6 has been significantly above national average in three of the past five years (2010 SATs were boycotted so no school data published).

Percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils achieving level 5 or above

This report shows the percentage of pupils in the school and nationally who attain or surpass the required standard for each level. Statistical significance tests have been performed.

	English				Mathematics				English&Mathematics			
	Cohort	School	National	Sig	Cohort	School	National	Sig	Cohort	School	National	Sig
All Pupils	50	60	37	Sig+	50	48	39	-	50	44	27	Sig+
Gender												
Male	32	66	31	Sig+	32	59	42	Sig+	32	53	25	Sig+
Female	18	50	44	-	18	28	36	-	18	28	29	-

It's good to be green: Our most able children did particularly well in 2012, of whom a trend-bucking majority were boys! More than half our Y6 boys attained an above average level 5 in English and maths.

New PE curriculum for Key Stage 2



Muddy Fun: A trip to Fan Woods is the highlight of the Y3/4 Outdoor and Adventurous Activities unit

Children in Y3-6 are now experiencing their PE curriculum in extended afternoon sessions that include 45 minute 'Speed, Agility and Quickness' sessions followed by PE modules for which the children have had an element of choice.

We are delighted to now be working with GymMagic and Pudsey Judo in core lesson time (and extra-curricular clubs), as well as introducing more 'Outdoor and Adventurous Activities', cycling and new sports such as Ultimate Frisbee.



SAQ is tiring!

Sports Update: The Y5/6 football team are leading at the half way stage of the area football competition, having conceded a goal just once in ten games. They were knocked out at the quarter final stage of a city-wide competition.

Hospitality at Farfield

Children in Reception and in Years 3 and 4 have recently welcomed parents to school as part of a Bonfire Party (Rec) or a Healthy Eating Day (Y3/4). Children prepared food and learnt how to serve to 'customers' in the infant hall or in the cafe.

Taking orders at the Reception Bonfire Party



Serving in the Cafe as part of Y3/4's Healthy Eating Day

Munashe and Abe really can wash up!



Thanks for your financial support

The school has a proud history of supporting charities and this term is no different. Already we have sent Harvest produce to St George's Crypt, raised £325 for Shine (a local Spina Bifida and Hydracephalus charity), £150 for Poppy Day and £450 for Children in Need. Thank you for your support.

Trips continue to enhance the curriculum

We have started the new school year with a slew of successful educational visits. Farsley Farfield is absolutely committed to maximising the number of visits that supplement our classroom curriculum and by the end of this term, the whole school (except Nursery) will have been on at least one trip already this year and many will be on their second or third!



The Y1 and Y2 children enjoyed travelling by train.



Years 5 and 6 were problem solving and team-building at Blackhills Woods as part of their 'Shelters' topic



Key Stage 1 visited Eureka as part of their 'I am special' topic



Reception had a day with 'the bears' in the woods



A new beginning for Farfield Farm?

The core Lottery funding for Farfield Farm ended at the end of last half term. Both farm managers - Lois and Shanet - have now left the project. We thank them for their fabulous work and we wish them the best of luck for the future! We have secured some limited additional funding, but the future will need to be quite different...

Joe, our farm trainee, is remaining with us, but on more limited, seasonal hours. He will be joined by a couple of other more experienced staff working with us for a few hours per week, particularly in the 'growing months' of March - October. The KS2 children's sessions on the farm will begin again after February half term and the farm itself is being 'put to bed' for the winter.

In the new year, the site will begin to operate again on a more limited scale. Some areas of the farm will be made available to families in the school and the community - like an allotment (plus a polytunnel bed). Other areas of the farm will be run by farm staff and volunteers, and by children themselves taking over small areas. We will be looking for one or two families in Y5 to take over responsibility for the Access Garden by their classrooms for two years on a 'crop-share' basis.



The cafe will remain open on Friday afternoons for the time being, with an additional evening hopefully in the new year. The courtyard is being made more 'fit for purpose' through voluntary work from Mr Quayle, Joe, Ryan, Johnnie and others and the financial investment of Mrs Davey's employers First Direct. We would like to thank Jonny Heath and his team of colleagues from Lloyd's Banking Group for their work on the top deck of the bus. In the next couple of months, Mrs Wallwork and colleagues from Barclays are coming to work on the farm to create new beds in one of the polytunnels. Thanks for all the support! I won't hear a bad thing said about bankers...

Many thanks too for the 9000 Morrisons Let's Grow vouchers - this is a great scheme for us and we look forward to the delivery of our huge order for the farm (and cooking curriculum).



What happened to school expansion?

We still need space for two new classrooms in KS2, the first of which is needed for September 2013. After the first proposed scheme was aborted due to cost, we are now awaiting a decision from Leeds City Council as regards two possible alternative schemes, both of which require the current IT suite to revert to a classroom. Any building for this project will be 'traditional build' rather than modular, and at least one new classroom will be available for the start of the next academic year. The green 'portakabin'-type building will be demolished before the end of this academic year.

New funding arrangements are a blow to Farfield

The government is pushing through a 'simplified' and 'fairer' school funding system that appears to hugely disadvantage our school. Indicative figures suggest that we may be the worst hit primary school in Leeds due to the removal of our additional 'split site funding' and all 'premises-related' funding. A small, brand new school with no grounds will get the same 'lump sum' as a large, older school such as ours with huge maintenance and running costs, and a large area of land to support. We would probably be better off financially as two separate schools like Westroyd and Springbank. This is a 'simple' funding arrangement in more ways than one...

We have already lobbied Councillor Carter and Stuart Andrew MP, and we are meeting with Leeds City Council soon.

Mathletics takes off!

Mathletics has really taken off this year both in Year 2, where Mrs Fisher is leading the charge, and throughout KS2. We have had a number of 'Golds' already this year, and we expect many more in the new year. Some of the scoring has been phenomenal and we are seeing Farfield children on the national 'Hall of Fame'. Well done to Munashe, our latest gold winner. Special credit goes to recent gold winner Jonathon, who at his coronation gave himself the Star Wars-related noble title: The Darth Divider!



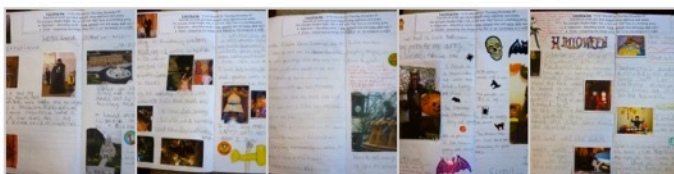
New this term is the free Mathletics iPhone and iPad app. Whilst the broader curriculum resources are still under construction, the 'Play Live' element works very well. Points earned in the app contribute to the other points in Mathletics.

Another great free app is Brainpop. Aimed at KS2 and above (but still popular in Y2), Brainpop has hundreds of animated movies about a huge range of topics led by characters Moby and Tim. The user name is **farsley** and the password is **pop**. Adults will learn things too!



More excellent Learning Logs!

We have recently marked the last home work in the Learning logs and again here are some examples of exceptionally brilliant work done at home! Thank you. 😊



Blogs

I am grateful to all our teachers who continue to post weekly updates about work in class, homework and other class news on our school website:

www.farsleyfarfield.leeds.sch.uk If you don't get regular emails from us about this, please email me: harrispi01@leedslearning.net with your child's name and class.

Report This Post

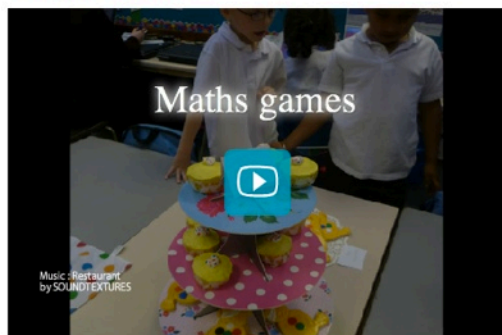
Posted in: Uncategorized

ADD COMMENTS

Maths games.

We had a session with a Maths Games circuit set up, so that everyone could have a go on a range of games which are fun ways of practising Maths. We played Mathletics on the class laptops, Snakes and Ladders and Numicon Dominoes and we had a roleplay Pudsey Bear cafe. We also learned how to play a game called 'Rush Hour'. This is a game which really gets you thinking, as you have to work out how to move the cars and trucks so that the red car (or ice cream van, in the Junior version) can get out of the traffic jam! It takes strategic thinking, concentration and resilience! You can play the game on line with the link above, and 'Thinkfun games' in 'Links.'

Next time we do our Maths Games circuit we will add a few more games – so please share any ideas for games you know that will be fun, but will also practise important maths skills. Maths games on PhotoPeach



New this school year are external blogs run by Mrs Fisher on behalf of KS1 and Mr Wilkinson for his class 6W.

These multimedia blogs showcase some fabulous achievements and the aim is to create an audience, and additional motivation, for the children's work. The children particularly like it when parents or friends comment on their work. Perhaps you could promote the blog with grandparents for us?



Recent highlights include:

- Wonderful artwork;
- Superb learning logs;
- Great poetry;
- Awesome maths and writing in Year 6; and a Hallowe'en Cookery Show!

I have been really pleased with how the new school year has started, and I expect the end of this term to be hugely enjoyable. Maybe OFSTED will finally pay us a visit...

Mr Harris on behalf of the governors
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