



# Fairfield Preparatory School

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HEADMASTER

R. Outwin-Flinders, B.Ed (Hons)

8<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear Parents,

Today, we completed another busy, happy and exciting year at Fairfield and it is one in which we celebrated the School's Ruby Anniversary. Fairfield was opened as a co-educational 4-11 Prep School in September 1969, having previously been the lower school to the Girls' High School. The school also had a few boys that progressed to the Grammar School at 7+.

To celebrate our Ruby Anniversary, the children, staff and parents have enjoyed a number of activities and events throughout the year. This has been marked by the production of a CD of the children (and staff) singing, which was received yesterday! It is on sale in school, with proceeds being donated to The Rainbows Hospice.

Many of this year's successes and achievements were highlighted in my Prize Giving speech on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010. This speech can be found on the School's website. We were, of course, delighted when Tom Eadon, former Headmaster from 1988 – 2001, agreed to be our Guest of Honour for this very important occasion for the children. Prize Giving is a big day in our school calendar when we celebrate the successes of all the Year 6 children, subject winners and those in Years 3, 4 and 5 who deserve personal recognition.

The majority of our Year 6 leavers progress to the Grammar School and High School. This year, of the 81 children, 43 will be going to the High School, 35 to the Grammar School, 1 to Rushey Mead School, 1 to Our Lady's Convent School and 1 to Harry Carlton School in East Leake. We wish all of our leavers, and other children leaving the school, every happiness and success in the future. We hope that they will return to see us from time to time. Good luck to them all. We hope to, perhaps, see them back to celebrate our Golden Anniversary in 2019!

Despite the economic downturn, the school has enjoyed excellent pupil numbers. In September, we returned with 499 on roll and today we currently stand at 508 pupils in the school. This is a record number. However, we do know and appreciate that many parents make huge sacrifices to send their children to Fairfield and we will continue to do our very best for all the children.



When we returned last September, we were aware that the school was likely to be inspected under the new framework ISI3. As you know, the school received an interim inspection in January. The school came out with glowing colours with the EYFS assessed as outstanding in every area with a number of outstanding comments for all aspects of the school life from Years 1-6. Thank you to everyone involved with such a positive report.

Although the BBQ summer of last year did not happen, we have been delighted that the incredible fine weather has enabled all of the planned outdoor activities to take place as scheduled. These included the Pre Prep Sports Day, Prep Sports Day, Party in the Park and last Sunday, the Al Fresco Music event. It was a joy to see pupils from Fairfield through to the Grammar School and High School performing in front of family and friends. It was Mr Osiatynski's first Al Fresco concert as Director of Music and the event was a huge success.

Congratulations to all the boys and girls that took part on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in the annual Town Sports at Loughborough University Athletics track. It was a tremendous occasion and great for parents to see the boys and girls at Fairfield performing so well with 17 children progressing to the County Finals last Friday, with most events having a Fairfield child coming 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fairfield won 5 of the 6 events, with the Year 6 boys narrowly being beaten by a very impressive Shepshed High School. There were a number of excellent performances and these children went on to take part in the County Finals.

In the County Finals, congratulations to the following pupils who were either County champions or given a placing at that event; Archie Banks, Francesca Green, Scarlett Langford, Toby Trayner, Louise Walker, Max Burbidge, Tilly Rees, George Martin, Byrony Parkinson, Emmanuelle Nemorin, Hana Rajabally, Irfaan Kaderhbai, Max Carr, Ettan Kohli, Lauren Archer, Harriet Barnes, and Alex Christian.

Thank you to Mr Pitts, Ms Nicol, Mr Bancroft, Mrs Leah, Mrs Love and Mrs Sutcliffe, as well as Miss Potter who supported the team at both the Town and County sports final.

Last night, was the Year 6 leavers' production and it was the final event commemorating the School's Ruby Anniversary. The event this year was called "The Rubies", it was like a mock Oscars celebration, with the children performing six scenes from different musicals. The singing, dancing and drama production was outstanding. This was co-ordinated by Mr Smail, Mrs Armstrong and Miss Carter, as well as other staff behind the scenes. It was an amazingly difficult and ambitious event with the school hall being turned into an Oscar ceremony itself, with parents sitting around tables as if at a real presentation. The event was greatly appreciated and it will remain as one of the lasting memories of this happy and successful year.

Throughout the year, the Chess Club have been able to celebrate a various achievements, with a number of children taking part at both regional and national level.

These achievements were also celebrated at our recent Prize Giving. The School Chess champions – Grand Masters – were Ashish Trusz and Shivani Patel. A record number of pupils have proceeded to the Chess Mega finals this year: Alistair Wanstall, Thomas Hyem, Saleem Bhojani-Lynch, Zahra Jassi, Guggy Sandu, Una Miralles, Charlie Moulding, Grace Johnston, Ravi Nathwani, Oliver France, Oliver Rouse, Dhruv Patel, George Cooper, Kushal Parmar, Ben Urwin, Henry Johnston, Max Chappell, Hari Jethwa and Bailey Peart. From these, 8 will now progress to the Giga Finals (National Finals) which will take place later this summer. They will be: Ashish Trusz, Shivani Patel, Alistair Wanstall, Guggy Sandhu, Druv Patel, Kushal Parmar, Hari Jethwa and Bailey Peart. Good luck to them!

In the Autumn Term, a number of children took part in the National Simultaneous pairs Mini-Bridge competition held at the Grammar School and our best pairs this year were Joe Graham and James Sendall.

The school enjoyed considerable success in the SATIPS National General Knowledge competition. Out of 103 Prep Schools, Fairfield was placed joint 9<sup>th</sup> overall and a special mention should be made to James Hart and Joe Graham in Year 6, who were placed joint 14<sup>th</sup> and joint 20<sup>th</sup> respectively out of 1,700 competitors.

Cross Country, although badly effected by flooding and the snowy conditions, has had another successful year. Over 60 children represented Fairfield at the Area County Cross Country championships at Shepshed. Of these, 20 represented Loughborough in the County championships on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 in Rutland. There were over 100 runners in every race and the competition was tough – Francesca Green ran well to finish second overall and Archie Banks was third. Milo Abraham ran well as part of the Year 6 team who were placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall and, therefore, Loughborough became County champions.

The U11 girls' Netball team have had a fantastic season winning the Foremarke, Rugby and Loughborough tournaments. They qualified as Regional champions at the National IAPS qualifying event and were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the National Finals held in Brighton. This is the best position in the School's history. Congratulations!

The girls' Hockey team have had an outstanding season winning the Foremarke Tournament and qualified for the National IAPS Finals where they achieved equal 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the country. The girls also went on to become Leicestershire champions qualifying for the Midland Champions early this term.

The boys' U11 team similarly qualified for the Midlands Champions again qualifying as Leicestershire champions.

Rugby is now being taught in the Autumn Term, soccer in the Spring Term with cricket for the boys in the Summer Term. Successes for the Rugby teams this year were the U9s 'A' & 'B' won the Old Vicarage 7s tournament, U10s were winners of the Oakham 7s Plate competition, U11 'A' won the Old Vicarage 7s tournament and Derby Grammar Place competition, U11 'B' were runners up in the Old Vicarage 7s tournament.

All the soccer teams had successful seasons, with the U9 team possibly the most successful of those. Congratulations to the U10s team who won the Timson trophy beating Sacred Heart in the final.

Our swimmers have enjoyed unprecedented success at the IAPS National Swimming Finals and the Club Finals this year. George Cooper became the U11 50m freestyle champion in a very close and exciting race. Olivia Smith, Year 5, finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the final of the U10s 25m butterfly, achieving her personal best in the semi final and Amy Wilkinson also achieved a personal best in the semi final of the U11s 25m.

In the U11s 100m freestyle at the Nationals, the relay team of Amy Wilkinson, Polly Carr, Natasha Wilson and Laura Webster all performed brilliantly to smash their best time by 2 seconds.

Cricket has continued to flourish at Fairfield. More than 50 boys represented the school this year and each and every one of them have been a credit to the school. The boys performed admirably on the field winning more than 80% of their games. Well done on an excellent year boys!

The Year 4, 5 and 6 rounders clubs have been very successful with 68 children regularly attending. The results from the matches have been varied but all the children have raised the standard of their game considerably. The Year 6 team unfortunately lost in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the IAPS competition to Foremarke who went through to the finals and were the eventual National champions. The season finished with the annual bugs and bees tournament which was as competitive as ever! Thank you to Mrs Love, Mrs Littleworth, Mrs Sutcliffe, Mrs Leah, Miss Carter, Mrs Coombes and Mrs Bradley who have staffed the clubs.

Overall, it has been a very successful, competitive and enjoyable season for all those boys and girls. I have been delighted to see so many children taking part in sport at a very competitive level and to a very good standard.

Finally, for the second year in a row, we had a Fairfield pupil placed in the National Final at the Eurotalk Challenge in London. Rhea Suribhatla, Year 5, progressed to the final and came 10<sup>th</sup> overall. She is already looking to beat her performance in next year's competition!

At the start of term, in May, as part of the Information Evening, Year 5 performed "Yanomammo" to parents, staff and senior school staff. It was Mrs Butcher's first production as Head of Year 5. The standard of the production – singing, dancing, spoken word, costumes and sets – was quite incredible and hard to believe that the children taking part were only on average 10 years of age. Thank you to all of the staff involved in that production. It is always a team event that enables these events to take place and run so smoothly.

I would like to thank the Ruby Celebration committee who have worked so hard to ensure that all the events that have been planned have taken place and have been enjoyed by all.

The whole Fairfield community enjoyed celebrating the School's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was wonderful to see so many former pupils, staff and governors returning last October for Fairfield's birthday party. The occasion was blessed with the return of two former Headmasters, Mr John Kilyon and Mr Tom Eadon. However, the celebrations started in the third week of term with a spectacular Dance Show, bringing some of the dances from the recent decades back to life. The birthday party was followed by a successful Ruby Ball for parents and staff. Children also enjoyed performing last term in the annual Music competition which, this year, was turned into a very different concert with all the participants taking part in 60s dress. Some wonderful music of that era was played by the children, with intervals of news updates which had taken place during that decade.

This term, the children have recorded their own celebratory Ruby CD. Last month, everyone enjoyed the Street Party when Reception to Year 6 children took part in 'It's a knockout' style activities followed by a 60's fayre. Sadly, the event had to take place indoors, but owing to its success, it has been agreed that we will organise a similar event for the children in the Summer Term every year. The two winning teams let off balloons, with named cards attached; one card was returned from Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire!

The following day, Saturday, the School hosted its own Party in the Park evening with a disco and band playing music from the 60s. Conditions were dry, but cold, and many retreated to the huge marquee. The band "8 Miles High" were absolutely tremendous and the celebration concluded with a spectacular high impact firework display. Thank you to all of the staff involved in making all of these events such a success.

Last week, children were presented with a commemorative coin to celebrate the School's Ruby Anniversary. I hope they will associate it with their happy memories of this special Anniversary year. Thank you to the P.T.A. for partly funding this gift for the children.

At the end of any year, it is always sad to say goodbye to colleagues and, this year, we say goodbye to:

- our two ICT Technicians, Mr Basra and Mr Naseem who return to De Montfort University to complete their BSc in ICT.
- Mr Davies, our Gap Year student, formerly at the Grammar School and Sheffield University who moves to the Royal Holloway University of London to read a Masters degree.
- Mr Hinson, Brass teacher, who joined the school in 1995 and Miss Holleworth, Violin teacher, who joined the school back in 1993.

And finally we say goodbye to three senior colleagues who between them have had 74 years teaching experience at Fairfield:

- Miss Howard who joined the school as Head of Pre Prep in 1993.
- Mrs Read, SENCO and Head of Gifted and Talented who joined Fairfield in 1988
- Mrs Wehrle who joined the school in 1976 as Class Teacher, becoming Head of Year 4 in 1987 and after 18 years became a part time Support teacher in 2005.

All three senior colleagues will be retiring at the end of this academic year and I wish them all a long, healthy and happy retirement. We hope all those staff leaving will take time to come and visit us and celebrate in future activities and events at Fairfield.

In September, we welcome back to the school from maternity leave Mrs Waldron who returns to teach Year 1 and Mrs McGinty who returns to teach in Year 6. We also welcome back to the school Mrs Holmes in a part time teaching support capacity.

As you know, Mrs Coombes and Mrs Young have been promoted internally to become the new SENCO and Head of Pre Prep department.

We also welcome two new ICT Technicians, Mr Sandhu and Mr Lalji who join us from De Montfort University for their 1 year placement at the school.

The new Gap Year student for Year 3 and 6 will be Miss Billington. Miss Billington was a former pupil at Fairfield and LHS and read Tudor History at Birmingham University.

Covering for Mrs Smail who starts her maternity leave early in the Autumn Term, we welcome Miss English who comes highly recommended to us from a local Nursery in Ashby, and who will be working closely alongside Mrs Kembery as her Nursery Nurse. We look forward to working with all these new colleagues in September.

At the end of a busy year, I would like to thank the members of the P.T.A. Committee for their hard work and endeavour throughout the year but, in particular, this term for; organising a successful Golf Day at Rothley Golf Course, providing teas for two Sports Days in glorious weather (possibly too hot this year!) and the Leavers' Disco and Karaoke evening last Friday. The children were presented with their leavers' hoodies and let off balloons in what was a very moving and super occasion for the children.

A huge thank you to the whole committee for organising such a variety of events this year and we look forward to the new events planned for the forthcoming academic year.

A special thank you to those members of the committee who will be leaving this year; Mr Jolliffe, Mrs Bahl, Mrs Kohli and Mrs Sakaria.

The committee has been hugely successful and the monies raised this year will be going to provide another set of laptops and setting up the opportunity to purchase a second minibus.

Good luck to Mr Young, Mr Anderson and Mr Bancroft who take the U11 Cricket team to Jersey tomorrow morning for their annual Cricket tour. Holiday courses this year start on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July – 23<sup>rd</sup> July and the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

For further information on the availability on space on these courses, please contact Mr Smail on 07979 465446. The Office will be open most days from 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. throughout the holidays, but should there be no one to answer the telephone, a member of staff will return your call as quickly as possible.

The Uniform Shop will also be open throughout the summer holidays. Please contact Mrs Gurney on 01509 232600 to arrange an appointment. The Uniform Shop has been moved this term to the lower car park at the bottom of the Fairfield drive and the gates are controlled by Mrs Gurney. New children should return in winter uniform, whilst the rest of the school should return in summer uniform until half term (15<sup>th</sup> October 2010)

Thank you to Mrs Moulding and her volunteers for running the Second Hand Uniform shop again this year and for providing such a valuable service.

Breakfast Club will start in the Autumn Term on the first day of term (Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010) @ 7.45 a.m. in the Drama Room (Kilyon building). For more details and information on the Breakfast Club, please contact Ms Buchanan on 01509 215172 (from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010).

Fairfield has, through various fund raising charity events, provided a lot of support for local, national and international projects this year. The school has supported Dogs for the Disabled, MacMillan Coffee morning, Jeans for Genes, Heart Foundation, Skipathon, the local Parish Church, Help for Heroes, Haiti Earthquake, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance, the School in Sri Lanka, Batukanaththa Primary School and Rainbows Hospice. The total raised this year nearly £10,000 which is a phenomenal effort, on the backdrop of the current economic climate which shows the support, kindness and generosity of Fairfield families.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and the time you have freely given in your continued support of our chosen charities during our extremely busy and exciting special 40<sup>TH</sup> Ruby Anniversary Year here at Fairfield.

Our Summer Term fundraising for re-building Sri Lanka, in particular Butuukanathatha Primary School standards at £967.42 to date.

Our focus for the Autumn Term has been reserved for Tujatana – Tongabezi Trust School. Details to follow at the beginning of term.

Mrs Wehrle writes:

On retiring, I pass the Charity flag to younger hands now – after 20 years of co-ordinating Helper's Fund. It's been my pleasure to play a part in helping the World along its way and I am very proud of all we have achieved in supporting so many worthy causes. We have succeeded in placing emphasis on charities which would appeal to our children. We have had two favourites in all this time – Rainbows Hospice, we have an inscribed sapphire block in Rainbows Wall of Celebration and Dogs for the Disabled, with Wendy Coley's visits, together with her many endearing puppies over the years. She has made the charity hugely popular here and we always look forward to seeing her.

I would like to express a big thank you to all, and a special mention for Amelia Calladine, Lily Buchanan and Meghna Johal for their valuable initiatives in their charity work this year.

I look forward to welcoming you all back in September at normal school times. New children have been sent details of different start times and Reception children return to a first week of part time from 9.00 a.m. – 12 noon, but full time from their second week onwards.

And finally, sincerest congratulations to Barrie Wakeling who today is at Trent Bridge Cricket ground where he will be presented with a Sky Coaching award, live on TV, to acknowledge his contribution to sport in the community, as Chairman of the very successful Loughborough Town Cricket Club. We are very proud of his achievements and this award is thoroughly deserved. Well done, Barrie!

May I wish you all a very happy, enjoyable and restful summer holiday.

With every good wish for the holidays.

Yours sincerely,

**R OUTWIN-FLINDERS**

Headmaster