



# Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Issue Number 16  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great joy that I welcome you all back to school and wish you a very happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed the extra long holiday and spent a few happy hours with family and friends. Although, as I watched some of you leaving the playground on Monday morning whooping and cheering and punching the air, I got the distinct feeling that you were rather happier about the **end** of the holiday!!

I was so pleased to see the children looking smart and tidy and ready for hard work – I could see that a real effort had been made dressing to impress! Thank you to all of you who are really supporting us by ensuring your children are wearing the correct uniform and passing that important message on to your children.

And a special mention must go to the little 4 year old girl who ran up to me in the corridor, thrust her leg in the air and demanded that I look at her shoe. Well, of course, I gingerly looked for signs of animal waste or dirt of some kind but could see neither. “Yes?” I questioned tentatively, concerned about what I may have missed. “Beautiful, isn’t it?” she breathed, swelling with pride, “I got these for Christmas!” Well, if that’s not the living, breathing spirit of Christmas right there in that little girl’s gratitude and appreciation, I don’t know what *is*!

So, our Harrow Lodge New Year’s resolution is to only use ‘nice’ words. This was born out of a few worrying comments from some children last term telling me that they had heard bad language in the playground. As the behaviour in school had been going from strength to strength, this was clearly an area for improvement so, in Monday’s assembly, I made sure the children understood why the use of bad language was not appropriate in school. Almost every child put their hand up when asked if they’d ever heard bad language outside of school and so it was clear that the children needed to understand that, although they may **hear** it, it’s not appropriate to **use** it *themselves*. Of course, I didn’t give them a list of bad words that shouldn’t be used (how ridiculous!!) and simply assumed they knew the kind of language I was talking about. Imagine my surprise, then, when one of our Year 1 children came up to me the following day, visibly upset after playtime, telling me that someone had used bad language to her. Now, as teachers, we always take a risk at this point if we ask children what was said but we also want children to know that we’re taking their discomfort seriously and will address the wrongdoer and so, I took the plunge and asked her what was said. “I was called a fox!” was the reply! Now, I know what all you mums out there are thinking – maybe not so bad to be called a fox!! - but this little girl was clearly insulted!!! I must say, I was rather relieved at the nature of the ‘*bad language*’ but I empathised with her pain as no one deserves to be called names. However, we did have a little chat about ‘fox’ not actually being a ‘bad word’ even though it **was** used rather unkindly in this instance! All that aside, I would be most appreciative if you supported us in this New Year’s resolution and mirror our message that the use of bad language is not appropriate in school as it is unkind, disrespectful and can be very scary to those who hear it. That’s basically the message I gave in Assembly.

Miss Goodwin had to call her own emergency EYFS assembly on Tuesday to remind everyone that we all live together and we all have a responsibility to tidy up the classrooms and the garden at the end of every day. Unfortunately, Mrs Welch had forgotten to put the reading cushions away on Monday evening and they were found the next morning bearing the distinct aroma of fox waste. Madeline in R2 was quick to offer words of pity. “Oh dear! It’s not looking good, Mrs Welch,” she proffered, “you’ll have to try harder to be good. I don’t think you’ll be moving up the chart *today!*” I don’t think the cushions will be left outside again!

In other news, on my walks around the school this week, it’s been the calmest I’ve ever witnessed – either you tired your children out over Christmas or they really **have** decided that it’s time to buckle down, work hard and reach for those stars. It’s been lovely to see them all so focused and engaged in their learning.

And there was a real surprise when I popped into R1. I walked in to find a corner of the room had been transformed into a carpenter’s workshop (I was going to write *chippy’s* workshop there but, reading it back, I realised that I would just be showing my age using **that** term so ‘carpenter’ it is!) Eliza and Boe looked resplendent in their safety glasses, hammering nails into wood with intense concentration on their faces. Pinned to the workshop’s notice board was Eliza’s design for the construction of ‘Nanny and Grandad’s very special car’ with a red roof through which you can see the sky; and Boe’s plane with 8 seats (said proudly while confidently holding up 5 fingers!). Yes, it’s the brand new woodwork station with real hammers, nails, saws, screwdrivers, sandpaper and a working vice! So far, all children have come out of the workshop with a great working model and 10 fingers still attached to hands! However, this all comes at a price and Miss Goodwin was aghast to find that the 60 blue and green milk bottle lids she’s collected over the last 3 months in anticipation of the new woodwork activities, have been used up in 2 days!! So, in the interests of recycling and keeping Miss Goodwin’s hair on, please could I send out a plea for plastic milk bottle lids so that R2 might have some wheels for *their* cars!

And so the first school week of 2019 comes to an end and I wish you all a wonderful weekend filled with plenty of rest and lots of sleep – oops, no, that’s just me! Enjoy your weekend and spend it having fun, frivolous, family time.

With kind regards and best wishes,  
Mrs Searle

**Attendance**  
**w/e 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

| Year Group | Attendance % |
|------------|--------------|
| Reception  | 78.0         |
| Year 1     | 88.9         |
| Year 2     | 82.8         |
| Year 3     | 91.0         |
| Year 4     | 84.9         |
| Year 5     | 93.0         |
| Year 6     | 94.4         |

Congratulations  
to the individual class  
attendance winners!

**5A - 96.7%**

**Overall School Attendance**  
**(year to date) – 95.6%**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

At 9:00am and again at 2:50pm, we would like to invite you into the KS2 Hall to meet our new Executive Head, Mrs Helen Williams.

She is very keen to get to know you and to answer any questions you have about her role within the school.

**Reminder**

As the office is closed until 9.15am (apart from children signing in late), please see the members of staff at the gates if you have any letters, uniform orders or messages which need to be passed on.

Thank you.

**sQUID – IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently

**£768.38**

As you are aware, from next Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, once a sQuid debt reaches £10.50 your child's entitlement to a hot meal will be cancelled and they will be given an emergency meal of cheese and crackers with unlimited salad from the salad bar. This will continue until the debt is cleared.

If anyone is struggling to pay the debt, please arrange a meeting with our office manager as soon as possible to agree a monthly payment plan.

We would also like to advise you that Trust policy is to seek to recover unpaid debts through the small claims court, but we sincerely hope that will never become an issue at Harrow Lodge.

## Diary Dates

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

9am & 2.50pm – Come & meet  
the new Executive Head  
Closing date for Primary School  
applications

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

Freshwater Theatre Company visit  
- Years 2 and 3

### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

Macbeth Workshop – Year 5

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

3.15pm PTA Stay & Chat  
– All Welcome

## Absences

If your child is going to be off school for any reason, **please** ring the school office by 9am every day of absence and leave a message on the absence line. It is vital that

Thank you for your  
co-operation.

## Change of Details

Please don't forget to let the office know if you have changed your phone number or moved house.

Thank you.

## PERFORM DRAMA WORKSHOPS

Perform have previously been into our school to deliver drama workshops and would like to offer a special £50 discount for any child from our school who joins one of their classes during January 2019.

They are offering a Free Trial Session and, if you sign up by 31st January using discount code JANU31-01019, you will be entitled to £50 off the cost.

To book a Free Trial Session, please call 020 7255 9120 or email [enquiries@perform.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@perform.org.uk). To find out the nearest class to you, please visit their website [www.perform.org.uk](http://www.perform.org.uk).

## January Feast

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January

**Breaded Chicken Bites**

**Beef Stew with Dumplings**

**Vegetarian Sausage Roll**

**Potato Wedges**

**Sweetcorn**

**Peas**

**Sticky Toffee Pudding  
with Custard**



**Keep Fit** is held on **Tuesdays** from 9.00am – 9.45am in the KS2 hall. This is a fun and FREE exercise class run by Mr Charlee. If you don't have childcare, please bring your little ones with you as they can be in the hall with us.



**Coffee Morning** takes place on **Wednesday** mornings from 9am-10am in the Oak Room. Please come and join us for a chat and cuppa!