



## Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Issue Number 18  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another cold week with the threat of snow looming at every corner. I'm dreading having to make *that* decision – closed or open – as I know it's only fair to make a decision early so parents can make childcare arrangements if needed but the earlier you call it, the higher the chance of calling it wrong! Let's hope the snow stays at bay this year or, better still, only falls on a Friday night and melts on the Sunday – perfect!

Monday was the quietest day I've experienced in school since I started working here. There was very little buzz around the junior side of the school owing to the fact that the whole of year 4 were out on a trip to the British Museum while one year 3 class visited the library in the morning and another in the afternoon and the whole of year 5 were out at swimming! Play-time saw the playground looking like a ghost town but both staff and children said it was the best play-time EVER! On further investigation, it was revealed that children relished the extra space and greater access to equipment. When a year 6 child came in beaming and said, "I wish we could have play-times like this *every day!*", it got me thinking....watch this space while the teachers and I rack our brains to come up with a creative solution! Year 4 were thrilled with their visit to the museum and one little girl ran and bear-hugged me on her return saying, "Thank you, Mrs Searle, for letting me go to the museum. I've never seen a museum before – it was as big as a castle and full of old things!" Now, she may have been referring to the curators but I suspect it was the exhibits. Of course, when I asked what the best bit was, she told me it was lunchtime! One does sometimes wonder if life would reach a pinnacle of excitement for children if all school trips were simply made up of picnics!!!

We held our first PTA meeting of 2019 and you should see the list of events planned for the coming year – my personal favourite being the 80's disco for us grown-ups (but you *can* bring your little ones if you wish). So, I've been hunting out my fluorescent, orange leg-warmers and bubble-perm wig ready for the big night! Thank you to so many of you who came with your ideas and enthusiasm.

The school councillors have been majorly busy this week – firstly, they have joined Mrs Williams (our executive head), myself and Mrs Browne on some Learning Walks – this is where we visit classes, look at the learning that's going on and ask the children some questions about the learning. I walked around with Catalina and Bogdan from 5A who visited the infant classes with me. I was so proud of how professional they were in their roles as observers and how gently they interacted with the younger children. In discussion after the walks, Jack from 5B said one of the most surprising things he noticed on *his* walk was how well the children helped each other with their work. Kindness seems to be infiltrating the school in a most satisfying way. Our student councillors also carried out an observation walk at playtime looking for evidence of kindness, respect and empathy. They also asked children their opinions about playtimes and how they could be improved. I now have a pile of 40 post-it notes on my desk, each one detailing a piece of equipment the children think would improve playtimes for them. I had a quick flick through and I'm slightly ashamed to say that the ice-rink and swimming pool suggestions accidentally slipped into the bin!!

As a whole school staff, we all had some first-rate terrorism training this week – no, not to learn how to terrorise but to learn how to react if we ever find ourselves in such a situation. Horrible to even consider such a thing but, as the police said, better to be prepared and know exactly what to do than to be caught off-guard, clueless and panicky!

Thursday saw our second Fire Drill of the year. We were all evacuated in 3 minutes and registered as well within 4 minutes; then all back in and working within 9 minutes. Just as well, really, because it was pretty darned cold out there – in fact, it *had* started to snow just 5 minutes before the drill was due to start and my heart sank but, as luck would have it, the snow amounted to a flurry of nothing. Our newly trained fire marshals executed their roles well looking for errant children and closing doors along the way. A great success, I would say. With a few tweaks here and there, I think we could evacuate for Britain in the near future!

In other news, the Parent Council met for the first time in 2019 and I was thrilled with another great turn out. I really value these meetings as I get a real sense of pulling together for the school when we hold these meetings and there are always such helpful ideas offered up for discussion. Every point of view is valued and our discussions become really focused on improving all aspects of the school. Every parent is welcome to come along to these meetings – in fact, the more parent voices, the better.

This week's presentation award went to Daisy-Belle in Year 1 for her wonderful presentation in maths. Well done Daisy, what an achievement!

And finally, our Year 6 parents met for a 15 minute meeting after school to discuss the end of year party (my goodness, where does the time go?) – an hour and a quarter later, they filed out of the staff room looking very tired (goodness knows what was discussed but they all looked quite satisfied with the outcome).

And so, we've come to the end of another busy week that's seen year 5s building bridges (with wood and card, not each other!) and year 3s aghast at the thought of having to come to school wearing nothing but a sheet for their Roman experience day later in the term! Oh if you could have seen their faces!!! And I wish you all a wonderful weekend filled with cheerful chatter and family fun.

With kind regards and best wishes, Mrs Searle

**Attendance**  
**w/e 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Attendance %</b>
<b>Reception</b>	<b>89.8</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>96.3</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>98.2</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>95.0</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>94.7</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>96.5</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>95.6</b>

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

**2B - 99.2%**

**Overall School Attendance  
(year to date) – 95.8%**



## Star Of The Week

R1: Kyla & Tia  
R2: Tianna  
1A: Kaeden  
1B: Hannah  
2A: Tyler  
2B: Sadie  
2/3C: Jessica  
3A: Zachary  
3B: Yabets  
4A: Muktar  
4B: Megan  
5A: Godstime  
5B: Jack  
5C: Ibrahim  
6A: Lewis  
6B: Cid



## Hot Chocolate Friday Drinkers

R1: Liam  
R2: Daisy-Leigh  
1A: Mitchell  
1B: Patricia  
2A: Alyssa  
2B: Hayley  
2/3C: Amelia  
3A: Tilly-Mae  
3B: Arham  
4A: Muktar  
4B: Eshan  
5A: Lucia  
5B: Ewan  
5C: Riley  
6A: Haroon  
6B: Aferdita



## Writer of the Week

R1: Olobo (Maths Wizard)  
R2: James (Maths Wizard)  
1A: Frank  
1B: Samuel  
2A: Liam  
2B: Brannon  
2/3C: Dylan  
3A: Mason  
3B: Layla  
4A: Oliver  
4B: Sienna  
5A: Catalina  
5B: Christiana  
5C: Mathavan  
6A: Lily-Jo  
6B: Divine

## Diary Dates

### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

6pm SATs meeting for Year 6 parents

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Young Voices at the O2

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

Stay & Learn Week

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

Safer Internet Day

Years 1 & 2 Indoor Athletics

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Years 2 & 3 – Roman Day

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Years 1 & 2 Road Safety theatre production

Years 5 & 6 5-a-side football tournament

### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

Year 6 trip to Kidzania

### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

Years 5 & 6 Hockey

### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

Years 5 & 6 Road Safety Theatre performance

School Council – Town Hall visit

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Year 1 – Trip to Colchester Castle

Year 4A – Elm Park Library visit

Year 5 – Trip to look at London bridges

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February –**

### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

### **HALF TERM HOLIDAY**

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

Return to School

2/3C – Elm Park Library visit

## 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.

## Lost Property

There is a huge amount of lost property in the box at the moment, so please come in at the end of the school day and claim your children's lost uniform.

## Change of Details

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

Thank you.

## 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.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## sQUID – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently

# £334

As you are aware, 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.**



**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!