



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 1st February 2019 Issue Number 19

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, many of you, I'm sure, will be glad to see the back of Dry January. I couldn't sustain *dry* January, I'm afraid, so I tried *damp* January instead – seemed to work for *me!* It's been a cold end to the month as well. I seem to have spent most of my week wandering around the school closing doors and windows – who on earth is opening windows in *these* temperatures?

The week started in a bit of a panic as I arrived on Monday morning to find that the heating in the school had broken down! Oh, for goodness' sake, I've been head teacher for little more than a term and we've already had 'Table-gate', 'Lock out', and 'Lock down' and it was suspiciously looking like it was about to be 'Close up' for the day! As teachers sat huddled in their classrooms breathing out clouds of frosty air, trying to prepare for the day's lessons, Mrs Browne, Mrs Waddington, Miss Goodwin and I combed the school for room thermometers as we knew that we couldn't ask children to work in temperatures below 18°C. With thermometers distributed, we saw that we were right on the cusp of 18°C and closure was imminent. Fortunately, the cavalry arrived at 8 o'clock and fixed the wayward heating. I was slightly confused by the lack of teacher cheering when it was announced that the school could stay open – sometimes I think the teachers are worse than the children, you know, as they dejectedly made their way back to class with their heads hung low and many still clad in snowsuits, boots and earmuffs! However, the threat of snow is still upon us and may well bring those doors to a close – let's hope, for all our sakes that it continues to 'flurry' not 'storm'.

We're falling back on our attendance this term which is so sad after such an amazing start to the year – I thought we'd be able to show those inspectors a thing or two about attendance here at Harrow Lodge after they knocked us for it in their last report but this cold weather seems to be keeping everyone in their cosy warm beds. Snow, snow, go away, come on back another day – preferably Saturday or Sunday!

On Tuesday evening, we held our annual year 6 SATs meeting for parents where we explain the format of the tests. We usually get 10 or so parents turn up to this meeting but, this year, there was a torrent of adults streaming into the hall. We knew that the year 6 children *this* year were a great cohort with strong work-ethics and a great value for education and Tuesday night showed us why – when *parents* value education, their *children* value education and educational success is inevitable. It's as simple as that! So, we were blown away by the support of our year 6 parents. The biggest message we tried to get across was how much children fall behind with even just one day's absence; in fact even just 20 minutes' lateness has a negative impact on progress and with the tests so close, there's no time to lose! So thank you to all of you (which was most) who came along – your attitude and support is key to your child's success.

In other news, we are now the proud owners of a new projector in the dining hall. The quality of the old projector was getting beyond a joke and so many children were complaining that they couldn't see the images on the screen during work-related activities in the hall or hymn practice or assemblies and I, myself, felt quite aggrieved having spent several hours at the weekend putting together a powerpoint for the children that I thought would inspire and amaze only to find that nothing could be seen! So, with thanks to Ruby and Lexi's dad, who shared his ICT expertise with us advising us on make and model, we purchased a new one and we can now actually see images and You Tube clips have never seemed more alive!!!

Now, occasionally, our Senior Leadership Team get to visit classes across the school to see what's being learned and to talk to children about that learning. After one such visit this week, Mrs Waddington returned to my office full of joy having heard Mason and Parker in 2B describe Miss B's nails as 'cyan' – now, to you and me, that's '**blue**' but to anyone looking for interesting and unique vocabulary, cyan is certainly worth a few brownie points. Well done boys – you are authors in the making!!

Thursday brought the first 'Awareness' day for parents. This time it was First-Aid Awareness. As you know, we hold a Parent Council every month where parents have an opportunity to put forward their ideas to help improve our school and school community. One of their ideas was to hold a First-Aid Awareness course for parents as many parents feel overwhelmingly lacking in knowledge when it comes to basic first-aid. And so the course was held and I believe it was a huge success – there seemed to be much laughter emanating from the room at one point and, when I peeked in, most were on bended knee or in some form of prostrate position, possibly owing to over-exertion but, more probably, due to executing an effective round of CPR on a particularly unresponsive and, if I may say so, lower-bodily challenged doll!! But, learning and fun seemed to be going together and that's the best kind of learning there is!

And today, I had the great pleasure of conducting the EYFS Star of the Week Assembly. Miss Goodwin is usually very precious about this lovely assembly and I don't usually get a look-in but, today, Miss Goodwin was out at a meeting and so I could swoop in and take over – and what a joy it was! I have to say that the highlight for me was hearing how Miss Goodwin's cooker and microwave had broken midweek and that Olivia and Charlie invited her to their houses for tea while Lana brought in 1000 Hungarian Ezer Forint (approximately £2.76) in loose change to buy her a new cooker! Empathy, kindness *and* problem-solving all rolled into one!

With that, I wish you a wonderful weekend full of all the good things in life, *all rolled into one!*

With kind regards and best wishes, Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 25th January 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	91.8
Year 1	95.7
Year 2	98.7
Year 3	89.4
Year 4	96.0
Year 5	96.4
Year 6	94.1

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

2A - 99.2%

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



Star Of The Week

R1: Baris, Bobby, Darcie,
Eliza & Lana
R2: Mujtaba
1A: Julia
1B: Kotryna
2A: Leah
2B: Kayla
2/3C: Brian
3A: Lelou
3B: Andrew
4A: Hayden
4B: Eesha
5A: Bogdan
5B: Christiana
5C: Henry
6A: Nathan
6B: Paula



Hot Chocolate Friday Drinkers

R1: Olivia
R2: Madeline
1A: Stanley
1B: Dolcie
2A: Amelia
2B: Scarlett
2/3C: Kitty
3A: Lelou
3B: Ellen
4A: Oliver
5A: Shafi
5B: Katie
5C: Freddie
6B: Henry O



Writer of the Week

R1: Jacob (Maths Wizard)
R2: Aisha (Maths Wizard)
1A: Sasha
1B: Mollie Mae
2A: Frankie
2B: Jimmy
2/3C: Victoria
3A: Charlie
3B: Ethan
4A: Neli
4B: Chloe
5A: Ayesha
5B: Ewan
5C: Rosie
6A: Lily Jo
6B: Ariyan

Diary Dates

Monday 4th – Friday 8th February

Stay & Learn Week

Tuesday 5th February

Safer Internet Day
Years 1 & 2 Indoor Athletics

Wednesday 6th February

Years 2 & 3 - Roman Day

Thursday 7th February

Years 1 & 2 Road Safety theatre production
Years 5 & 6 Girls' 5-a-side football tournament
5pm PTA Film Night

Friday 8th February

Year 6 trip to Kidzania

Tuesday 12th February

Years 5 & 6 Hockey

Wednesday 13th February

Years 5 & 6 Road Safety Theatre performance
School Council – Town Hall visit

Thursday 14th February

Year 1 - Trip to Colchester Castle
Year 4A - Elm Park Library visit
Year 5 - Trip to look at London bridges

Friday 15th February

7pm-11pm PTA 80s Disco

Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 25th 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.

Chinese New Year Menu Tuesday 5th February

Chinese Sticky Chicken with Rice

BBQ Pork with Rice

Quorn Chow Mein

All served with a Vegetable Spring Roll

Sweetcorn & Pepper Stir Fry

Mandarin Jelly

Also available: Fresh Fruit. Yoghurt. Cheese & Biscuits

sQUID – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently

£432.88

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 unfortunately **CANCELLED** next Tuesday, 5th February.

Usually it 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!