



Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term

15th March 2019

Issue Number 24

Visit www.harrowlodgeprimary.com to view it online!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have to begin this week's newsletter with a severe warning. There is news to follow that will shock you to the core. Please try not to be alarmed but you may very well need to be sitting down when you get to the end of this newsletter since your eyes will be stung by the overwhelming flood of green on the attendance chart!! Mrs Spink had to pick me up off the floor and dose me with smelling salts today after showing me the attendance values for last week. Never, in the history of my time at this school, have I witnessed so green a picture and I urge you to drink in the wonder of it, bask in its glow and delight in the triumph, for we know not when we might witness such a marvel again! Of course, I asked myself how this happened; what caused such a sterling effort? Can we replicate it week after week and call in those inspectors to show them how we've turned poor attendance on its head in this school and laughed in its harsh and hostile face? Was it because it was Book Week? Was it the lure of dressing up or was it the fascination of revamping the toilet blocks? I'd like to plump for the toilet blocks but, in truth, there's very little of any real interest around the toilet blocks at the moment barring the odd glimpse of an old toilet bowl surfacing here and there from time to time! And so, I fear that the mystery of last week's phenomenal performance in the attendance war will not be solved any time soon.

Talking of attendance, I was most concerned when Tyler in 2A stopped me in the corridor and asked me if I could check his attendance percentage for him. Now, Tyler's a smart boy and I knew he must be worried about the number of days he'd had off school and how that would affect his attendance percentage so imagine my surprise when his attendance record popped up at a stellar 99.6%! As I turned to Tyler to impart the good news and reassure him that he had nothing to worry about, I was greeted by the biggest grin even a Cheshire cat would be proud of! "Tyler, your attendance stands at 99.6%," I announced in disbelief, "Did you think it was going to be low?" "Oh no," he replied, "I know I've only had half a day off all year! I just wanted to see it for myself!" This boy is in **Year 2!!!!**

So, this week, we had the Active Board trainer come in to train Mr Charlee, Miss Goddard and 10 children from across the school on how to play the games properly on the boards. We were all very excited because I'd also arranged for the trainer to coach the rest of the teachers *after* school so that they could then take their classes out and show their children how to play the games – a good bit of 'pyramid teaching' I thought. It was a bit of a blustery day but we were all up for the challenge of facing the bitter wind since the reward far outweighed the potential discomfort. Well, talk about bursting our bubbles and shattering our hopes! As we all began to troop outside, Miss Martin enquired where we were all going and, on hearing our squeals of excitement about spending an hour and a half learning how to play the boards, she regrettably informed us that the trainer had signed out and gone home! What a let down! I was distraught – I'd planned what I thought would be a fun and informative staff meeting and a great learning experience for us all and it was ruined, trounced upon if you will, and I'm sure all the teachers felt the same distress (although they were smiling **hugely** and laughing **very** loudly through their

disappointment as they headed back inside for a free hour and a half! I guess they didn't want me to see how disappointed they were!). So, in the aftermath of that devastation, I've asked Mr Charlee and Miss Goddard to ensure they take each class out at some point during their PE lessons to make sure *all* the children learn how to play properly on the Active Boards. Let's get those children moving!

Walking into Year 5 classes this week has been like walking into a carpenter's workshop as they busied themselves to complete their bridge-building projects – I think we've witnessed the birth of a few future engineers judging by the standard of their woodworking skills. 5A and 5B also enjoyed a trip to the library – there's always great excitement going to the library which is a joy to behold. Unfortunately, 2A's trip to the library was rained off, much to the disappointment of the children who really couldn't see any problem with walking out in the torrential downpour – "It'll be just like standing in the shower, Mrs Searle," pleaded one of the 7 year old boys, "And we're always being told how important it is to shower regularly, aren't we?" Well, he's not wrong I guess and, in truth, I think he should be admired for his razor-sharp logic and his well-developed, techniques of persuasion! They still didn't go, though!!!

There's been a lot of work going on this week, across the school, to do with our bodies and how to care for them. I discovered Year 1 in the dining hall drawing round their bodies and labelling the various parts – I must confess, I'd forgotten how highly amusing the use of the word 'belly-button' was until I mentioned it as a possible labelling opportunity and the hall was filled with hysterical 6 year olds rolling around on the floor in uncontrollable hilarity (it was like watching that 'Smash' potato advert from the late seventies!!).

I also learned a valuable lesson visiting 2A this week when they informed me that they'd been learning how medicines can be good for you when you're ill but can also be dangerous if taken in the wrong dosage or taken when not needed. That was impressive knowledge but it was Lexi who really blew me away with her insight into the dangers of consuming non-essential liquids – "And you mustn't drink Fairy Liquid or you'll end up burping bubbles!" I've made a note of that excellent advice and I'm glad to see that Miss Howard is teaching her class some valuable life lessons!

There was a cold east wind blowing a gale this week and, as I stood in the lobby on Wednesday morning watching the effects of the gale on our trees, I was intrigued to see a lone paper kite with a trailing tail, float across the playground in wild abandon. I thought I'd investigate its origins so I stepped out into the hostile wind and battled against the gale in the direction from which the kite had emerged. And what a sight met my gaze as I turned the corner of the afore-mentioned toilet block – a sea of multi-coloured kites swirled and twirled through the air followed by giggling 5 year olds desperately holding onto their home-made creations. "Mary Poppins left us a note," yelled one excited little voice, "She asked us to make some kites and fly them!" "Great," I shouted, over the blustery wind, "Let's go fly a kite!" I think my clever reference to the famed song was lost on those little ones so I thought I'd share it with *you* instead in order that my astute wit can be fully respected and appreciated!

And, finally, we've had yet another week of sporting triumphs – check out our website for the full stories but we had great success in Year 6 swimming and Year 1 (second overall with an impressive total goal score) and Year 2 football. The best news of all, though, comes from our Boccia team, Abby, Jimmy-Dean and Henry, who were voted by all the other boroughs as the most respectful team in the whole competition! Now *that's* an accolade to be proud of. Well done to *all* our sporting heroes.

And so, I wish you a wonderful weekend filled with kite-flying and giggles and probably a great deal of leaf-clearing!

With kind regards and best wishes,
Mrs Searle

Attendance
w/e 8th March 2019

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	97.9
Year 1	98.2
Year 2	96.9
Year 3	96.7
Year 4	98.9
Year 5	98.4
Year 6	96.9

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

5C - 100%

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



Star Of The Week

R1: Liam & Louis
R2: Daisy
1A: Logan
1B: Bobby
2A: Patrick
2B: Lola
2/3C: Lance
3A: Beau
3B: Armani
4A: Neli
4B: Tia-Leigh
5A: Shafi
5B: Namra
5C: Olivia
6A: Ronnie
6B: Eryn



Hot Chocolate Friday Drinkers

R1: Tia
R2: Alexander W
1A: Alex
1B: Kotryna
2A: Parker
2B: Jessica
2/3C: Victoria
3A: Philip
3B: Josias
4A: Shania
4B: Iriana
5A: Yusuf
5B: Joshua
6A: Louie
6B: Eryn



Writer of the Week

R1: Olivia & Jacob (Maths) Tia (Kindness)
R2: Andrei (Maths) Alexander W (Kindness)
1A: Jessie
1B: Hannah
2A: Karina
2B: Roman
2/3C: Harvey
3A: Philip
3B: Luis
4A: Ben
4B: Lillie
5A: Maurette
5B: Katie
5C: Kai
6A: Lilly
6B: Ruby

This week's
Presentation Award
goes to
Alyssa (2A)
for presentation in maths

Diary Dates

Monday 18th March

6pm Parent Council Meeting
(all welcome)

Tuesday 19th March

2B – Elm Park Library visit
Maths Quiz Day
3.30pm PTA Meeting (all welcome)

Thursday 21st March

World Poetry Day

Tuesday 26th March

Year 5 – Wiggly Wild Show
Easter Art Day

Thursday 28th March

Mother's Day Stalls
5pm-7pm PTA Pamper Night

Friday 29th March

Mother's Day Stalls

Friday 5th April

Talent Show

Wednesday 10th April

Year 4 Easter Production to parents



**Thank you for your
generous donations
today for
Comic Relief.**

**We raised a grand total
of**

£279.90

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, even if you have already told your child's teacher. Please follow this up with a note on your child's return. Thank you for your co-operation.



PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to

- ❖ Mason (4B) on being awarded Man of the Match last weekend.
- ❖ Chloe (4B) coming 2nd in her recent gymnastics competition.
- ❖ Amelia (5B) for passing her street dancing exams and getting a distinction.



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.



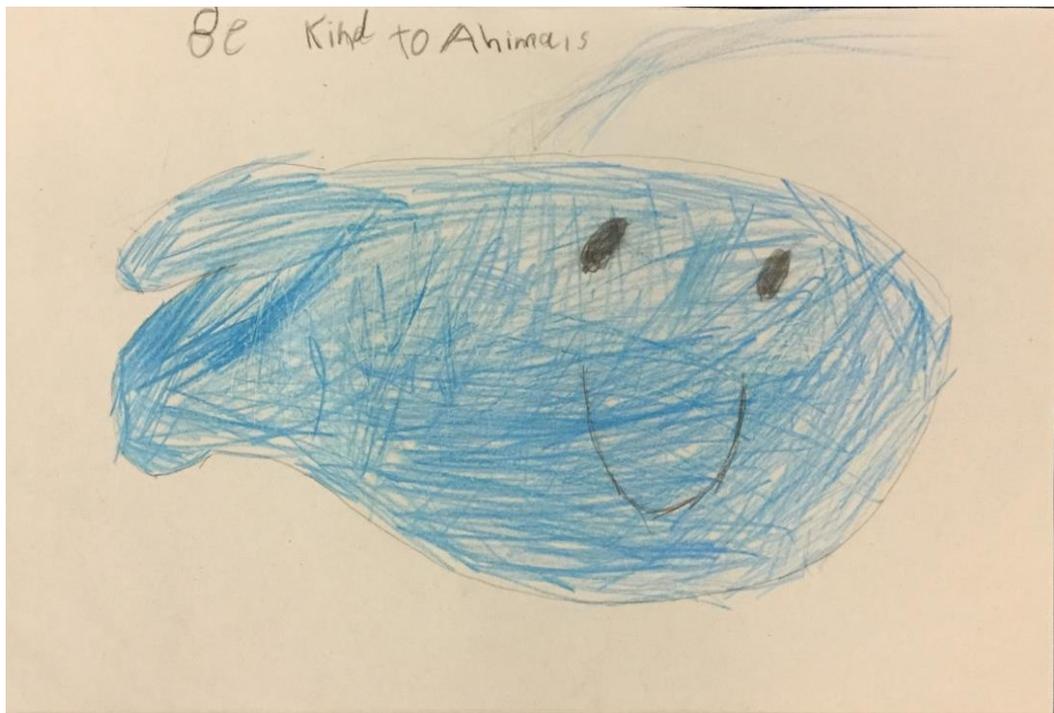
COFFEE MORNING takes place on **Wednesday** mornings from 9am-10am in the Oak Room. Please come and join us for a chat and cuppa!

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.



**PICTURE OF THE WEEK
BY LIANA – 2A**

sQuid

The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently

£282.19

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.