



## Harrow Lodge Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 Issue Number 22

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, it's been another busy and exciting week here at school and, my, what beautiful weather for the first three days! Everyone's spirits are lifted by sunshine and warmth. We're now over halfway through the year and it was time to ask the children in assembly how far they felt we'd come as a school in terms of our character. I talked to the children about the reputation the school used to have and how we had improved year on year and then, hoping to extract a list of current positive features of our school, I posed the question, "So, who are we now?" and the smallest 6 year old in the front row piped up, "We're human beings!" Well, you can't fault her logic and I praised her for her sharp observation! Other children told me how they thought we were a school with a reputation for being great at sport (tick), being healthy (tick – mostly!!!), being smart and well-presented (tick) and being great at the performing arts (tick)! It was really lovely to hear how proud the children were of our school.

As you know, we're looking to improve our playground and the first of our exciting improvements went up on Tuesday in the form of two 'ActiveAll Boards' which are designed to improve stamina, agility and speed as children race to hit the coloured rings that light up intermittently. There's a lot more to it than that and I was given a whistle-stop explanation of the instructions by the installers but, quite frankly, I was lost after, "Hit the menu button and select your game." However, I knew that there would be training to follow on the 11<sup>th</sup> March for the staff after which they could teach the children, step by step, how to use the boards. As it happened, the children came out to play at this point and, of course, made a beeline for the shiny new toys. I felt a little sorry for them knowing that it would be a couple of weeks before they could actually play on them and the installer suggested turning the boards off until the children could be taught how to use them. Now, I'm not saying there's any kind of a gulf between the children and myself when it comes to technological competency but that small group of children literally looked at the boards for approximately 20 seconds, discussed the possible options of gameplay for another 30 seconds and were playing a full-blown game (complete with electronic scoring) before a full minute was up!!! This is truly the Age of the digital child! And, from there on in, the children haven't left the boards alone! As the boards are housed in the KS2 playground, the infant children *are* going to have to wait until the teachers are trained and can take their class out to play on them. The boards were very expensive so I would appreciate it if you ensured that your smaller children (or much bigger ones, for that matter) refrained from tampering with them whilst you wait in the playground before and after school.

The next exciting news involves every child's favourite place of residence, particularly during a long and difficult maths lesson – yes, it's the toilets! And, finally, the day has arrived when those 1930's, war-torn toilet blocks will begin their transformation into sleek, shiny, fully-functioning water-closets!! I know many of you have aged a life-time waiting for the arrival of new Infant toilet blocks but this weekend will see the start of that dream becoming a reality!

The contractors have assured me that both toilet blocks will be completed within 13 weeks taking us up to the end of term. We've decided to follow the trend of having unisex toilets for the current girls' block – yes, I know, it takes some time to get your head around it but it will stop all that sprinting down the corridor that boys truly love to do every half an hour of the day!

The toilets will all be self-contained cubicles that can't be accessed above or below doors (only **through** doors) and, for any children who still prefer to use separate toilets or whose *parents* would prefer their child to use separate toilets, we'll be keeping the other toilet blocks as girls only and boys only. Well, *that's* the plan but you know what they say about plans (Man plans and God laughs!!!) so we'll just have to wait and see what emerges from the ashes!

And yet more work will be going on *inside* the school building with corridor painting and carpet removal (replaced with the far easier to keep clean vinyl) - I asked for marble but, for some reason, my request was given very little consideration!

Further work is being planned to move the front entrance of the school round to the doors opposite the car park but there'll be more about that at a later date. For now, we'll just have to concentrate on the toilets for our excitement (another sentence I never thought I'd hear myself say!)

The sunny weather was a lovely surprise this week but it was such a shame that we were all stuck inside beavering away at our work while the dappled sunshine called to us from the sun-drenched fields outside. But it's already halfway through the year which means we must forego the sunshine in favour of hard work and reaching targets! And so you can imagine my alarm as I came out of my office, on Tuesday, to see a line of excited little Year 2 faces, wearing high-viz jackets, armed with magnifying glasses, jam jars and clip-boards. On enquiring where they were heading, Mrs. Bracken's group of children all spoke at once in loud and excited tones telling me how they were visiting the park to go on a 'Habitat Hunt'. Luca was insistent that they were looking for habitats of things that had never lived (I never got to the bottom of that statement!) while Justin tried to explain to him that they were planning to investigate the leaves and flowers to look for evidence of life.

Thursday saw the arrival of a pack of mad scientists at school as Year 4 went all out to celebrate World Science Day by transforming themselves into professors for the day. Mason in 4B couldn't be seen beneath his wild head of hair but you can definitely say that he stood out in the crowd.

All week, classes have been conducting experiments and investigations in honour of Science Week and the ooohs and aaahs around the school told me that truly fascinating things were being learned. EYFS were investigating floating and sinking and, when Miss Goodwin challenged her children to bring something into school that they thought might float, she was puzzled by Kyla's confidence in predicting that a feather would float. "What makes you so sure that a feather will float?" asked Miss Goodwin, "Well," said Kyla, in a serious tone, "ducks don't sink, do they?" Again, flawless logic!

When new children start our school, I always like to meet them with their parents before their start day and this week, we welcomed David, a year 1 Romanian boy who had very little to say for himself until Madalin in 5A came to join us and then the two boys chatted non-stop in Romanian, sharing likes and dislikes and enjoying the camaraderie that comes from sharing a common language. It was the loveliest scene to watch and Madalin was a complete star as he acted as interpreter and welcomed David into our school family. I couldn't have been more proud.

And Thursday saw the arrival of the Book Fair ready for next week's Book Week. Do make sure you visit the book fair if only to browse – **your** interest in books will spark an interest in books for your children, I promise you, and a good reader is set for life!

Well, that's it for another week. I do hope you can read the newsletter this week. After getting extremely fed up with me continuously decreasing the font size in order to fit the newsletters onto one page, Mrs Spink has finally given in and awarded me **2** pages to delight you with the goings on in Harrow Lodge Primary.

And so, in preparation for Book Week, I wish you a wonderful weekend filled with shared reading and visits to the library. I'm off to find my hard hat and Bob the Builder outfit – Can we fix the toilets? Yes we can!

With kind regards and best wishes, Mrs Searle

**Attendance**  
**w/e 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	89.1
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>98.5</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>97.0</b>
Year 3	94.6
Year 4	95.3
Year 5	91.9
Year 6	92.7

Congratulations to the individual class attendance winners!

**1B & 2/3C - 98.6%**

**Overall School Attendance  
(year to date) – 95.7%**



**Star Of The Week**

R1: Lana & Olivia  
R2: Daisy-Leigh  
1A: Sofia  
1B: Riley  
2A: Liana  
2B: Prakhar  
2/3C: Amelia  
3A: Shaun  
3B: Layla  
4A: Jake  
4B: Sienna May  
5A: Maurette  
5B: Christian  
6A: Morgan-Mae Pratt  
6B: Henry G



**Hot Chocolate Friday Drinkers**

R1: Baris  
R2: Olivia  
1A: Logan  
1B: Harshini  
2A: Leah  
2B: Mollie  
3A: William  
3B: Marie  
4A: Alarna  
4B: Gabriella  
5A: Bogdan  
6A: Brooke  
6B: Finley



**Writer of the Week**

R1: Amber (Maths) Baris (Kindness)  
R2: Ariana (Maths) Olivia (Kindness)  
1A: Kaeden  
1B: David  
2A: Amelia  
2B: Alex  
2/3C: Kristian  
3A: Beau  
3B: Yabets  
4A: Pratyush  
4B: Lou Lou  
5A: Joshua  
5B: Kian  
6B: Nancy

## Diary Dates

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

3.30pm Book Fair in the KS2 Hall

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

Book Week

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

Years 3 & 4 - Tag Rugby  
3.30pm - 6pm Parents' Evening

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

4pm - 7pm Parents' Evening (**6B only**)

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

World Book Day - Character dress up  
4pm - 7pm Parents' Evening (not for 6B)

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

Year 4 - Trip to Science Museum

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

2A - Elm Park Library visit

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

Years 1&2 Mixed Football Festival

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Red Nose Day  
(wear something red)

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

2B – 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, even if you have already told your child's teacher.



## Red Nose Day

We will be having a non uniform day, but wearing something red, on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** in return for a £1 donation towards Comic Relief. However, please ensure hair is still tied up as usual and that NO red hair spray or facepaint is used.

Thank you.



**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!

## sQuid

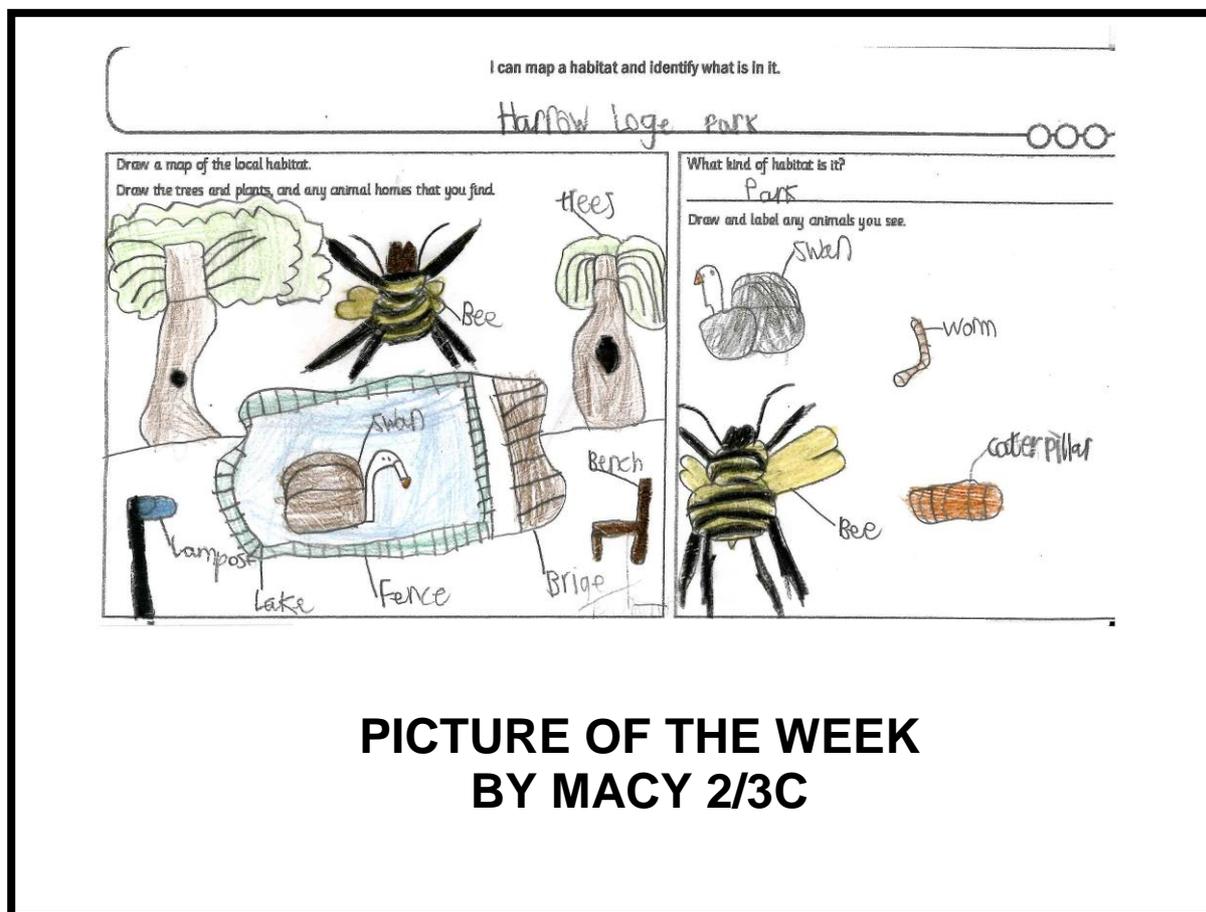
The amount owed on sQuid for school dinners is currently

**£276.19**

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.**



## SCHOOL DINNER MENU CHANGES

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Shrove Tuesday**  
Pancakes for dessert

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day**

**The BFG's Chicken in a Bun with Curly Fries**  
**Biff & Chip's Cheesy Tomato Pasta Pot**  
**The Gruffalo's Vegetarian Sausage Roll with Curly Fries**

**Horrid Henry BBQ Boston Beans**  
**Hungry Caterpillar's Sweetcorn & Peas**

**Willy Wonka's Iced Marble Cake**

Also available: Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt, Cheese & Crackers